Tajik President Injured in Hand Grenade Attack

DUSHANBE — Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov was injured early Wednesday when a lone assailant hurled a hand grenade at him and his entourage in Khodzhent, a town in northern Tajikistan, a presidential spokesman said.

The spokesman, Zafar Saidov, said Rakhmonov's life was not in danger and he was being treated in the Leninabad district hospital for a leg injury.



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U.S. Anti-Castro Law Should Be Changed

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Helms-Burton law aimed at choking off non-U.S. investment in Cuba should be changed in coming months, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President Willard Workman said.

Workman, speaking before Amcham Cuba, a group of executives who cannot do business in Cuba directly due to the 35-year-old U.S. embargo, said the law which tightened U.S. sanctions last year was "a dumb law," and that "it's going to go away."

Turkey Pledges Continued Cooperation With Israel

TEL AVIV — Turkish Defense Minister Turhan Tayan pledged Wednesday to pursue military cooperation with Israel despite opposition from Arab and Islamic states as he began an unprecedented visit to the Zionist state.

At the start of his trip, Tayan told Israeli Army radio that Ankara would not back down on a controversial defense cooperation pact which has included Israeli jet fighter training flights over his country.

"The operational Israeli flights in Turkish airspace will continue," he said, brushing aside protests over the maneuvers.

"Turkey places great importance on these relations and I believe that the cooperation between us will add to stabiliy in the region and advance the peace process," he said.

Meanwhile Turkish Defense Minister Turhan Tayan met Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Mordechai on Wednesday at the start of a three-day visit to cement the growing military cooperation between the two states, officials said.

It is the first visit to Israel by a Turkish defense minister and follows a trip earlier this month to Ankara by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and a visit to Israel in February of Turkish chief of staff Ismail Hakki Karadayi.

In addition to holding talks with Mordechai which are expected to deal with strategic relations be-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

EU Embarked on a Childish Game

TEHRAN — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Wednesday stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had long ago stopped critical dialog with the member states of the European Union (EU).

Addressing the first conference on energy, the president added that the critical dialog which the Europeans considered its termination as an achievement for themselves, had long been non-existent as a result of pressures exerted by Iran.

"The Europeans launched propaganda campaign against Iran and embarked on childish games and at the end they became ashamed and held up their hands. This is an indication of Iran's real might," said the president.

"This is a shame for those countries which entered into this game and then admitted that there was nothing in it," President Rafsanjani told the conference.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been critical of the European countries performance over seven issues.

President Rafsanjani said the "critical dialogue" was initially meant to enable Iran to express its criticism of certain European countries, but was later cut off by Iran due to the EU's failure to answer Iranian questions on vaious issues."

He said the EU has adopted insulting code of conduct towards the world of Islam and has launched offensive against the sentiments of 1.5 billion Muslims throughout the world such as their support for the apostate author Salman Rushdie.

"They have provided Iranian counter-revolutionary terrorists with safe haven. The terrorists pass on information to the Europeans and instigate them (against Iran). Israel is busy committing the worst kinds of terrorist acts in Lebanon, but, Europe does not react at all," the president said.

One of the questions posed by Iran within the framework of the critical dialogue was the EU's involvement in providing nuclear weapons to Israel and chemcial weapons to Iraq.

"Other matter for which Iran criticized Europe in its critical dialogue was prevalence of racism in European countries. They regard themsleves to be of a superior race and for this reason their behavior is like that of Israel. They consider

(Contd on Pg. 14)

German Envoy Should Not Be Allowed in for Sometime

TEHRAN — The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei here Wednesday described Western governments as "unfair, ill-intentioned, shameless and brazen because of their baseless accusations against the Iranian nation and other nations of the world."

Addressing a group of teachers and workers who had called on the Leader on the occasion of the Teachers' and Workers' Day, Ayatollah Khamenei strongly condemned Western governments "for their aggression against the rights of human beings in the last one hundred years."

The Leader ordered the Iranian Foreign Ministry not to allow the German ambassador to Tehran to return for a period of time.

The Leader also instructed the Foreign Ministry not to rush in sending back Iranian ambassadors to their respective countries of mission in the EU member states.



The foreign ministers of the EU following a meeting in Luxembourg yesterday announced that they will soon send back their ambassadors to Tehran.

EU member states recalled their envoys from Tehran for consultations following the ruling of the Berlin court on April 10.

Iran in retaliation recalled its ambassadors from the EU member states.

(IRNA)

Sahabi on Presidential Issues

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN— The managing director of the Persian-language periodical Iran-e Farda, Ezzatollah Sahabi, who intends to stand in the forthcoming presidential election slated for May 23, described to the Tehran Times his intention of running for president as trying to bring the government closer to the people. Iran is under the threat of the western countries, U.S. in particular, and there is also a dull situation prevailing the country due to the gap between the government and the people, Sahabi noted, adding "If I win the presidential



election, I will try to create mutual understanding between the government and the nation because it is vital for social and economic development".

Outlining the characteristics of his ideal government, Sahabi said that he considers the constitution as the national charter which defines the relations between the government and nation. "If elected the next president, I will fulfil all its provisions and will cooperate with all political groups in the country," he added.

Asked whether he believed that nationality was intertwined with religion or whether he thought being an Iranian was separate from being a Muslim, he replied that being an Iranian is interwoven with being a Muslim, adding that whoever tries to separate these two from each other is either ignorant or has ill intentions.

"Thus, religion and nationality are not separable in Iran and the only common factor which links different ethnic groups and tribes in Iran is the sovereignty of Islam," he stressed.

Sahabi went on to say that he is personally religious and committed to Islam and his country, underlining that his beliefs and ideas have not changed for the last 50 years.

"I have worked to disseminate

(Contd on Pg. 14)

4th Press Festival, Forum for Discussing Journalists' Problems

FOCUS

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the fifth day of the Fourth Press Festival in Tehran, the Tehran Times asked the pressmen in charge of the pavilions at the festival their views on the publication of the periodicals, the problems they face in this regard and also the freedom of expression in Iran.

It is worth noting that in the festival, which opened on April 26 at the Tehran Permanent Fair Grounds, tens of Iranian dailies, weeklies, and monthlies published across the country have taken part and the people from all walks of life are visiting their pavilions enthusiastically.

Roshandel, a pressman with Persian-language daily Salam:

We should consider journalism as a profession. If pressmen are not provided with professional security, they will face problems in handling their jobs. In other words, as long as they lack a professional organization, they cannot stand up for their rights. Among the problems facing the journalists is the limitation on the channels of receiving news. Presently, all the dailies receive their news from the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Just take a look at the morning and evening dailies. You will see that the bulk of the news is repeated. Also, the major news items printed in the dailies are also broadcasted by the Iranian state-run radio and television. Another problem is the lack of efficient writers for the press.

Still, there is another issue, the rights of journalists, which should be vindicated. The authorities appointed to deal with the issues of pressmen are not actually familiar with journalism and the problems existing in this regard. The jury

(Contd on Pg. 14)

People Express Views on Presidential Election

FOCUS

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The seventh presidential election in Iran is to be held on May 23, less than a month from now. This election carries significance for the Iranian people from some different aspects. Among the main issues to be dealt with by the next president is reviewing relations with the West and defining the nature of such relations, which is a crucial issue particularly in view of the judicial drama called the 'Mykonos case' recently tried in a court in Berlin, Germany.

The importance of this issue prompted the Tehran Times to ask a number of people their views on relations with the Western countries and the way such ties should be forged and formulated.

Other question that the daily's reporters asked the people was whether they would regard the elected president as their real representative. This question actually measured the rate of the people's trust in the presidential election, namely their belief in its validity.

Mohsen Safarian, self-employed:

As far as I know, the Iranian people are free to take part in the elections and vote for their favorite candidates. Also, the electioneering and publicity campaign launched by the candidates are of a sound nature. However, I believe that these activities, at their present rate, are not enough because the people are not completely acquainted with all candidates.

Regarding relations with the West, I should say that the Iranian people are very zealous and will allow no other countries to show disrespect to their beliefs. The next president should discourage such moves and should be assured that the people will support him in the face of the West.

Abbas Danesh, self-employed:

(Contd on Pg. 14)

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In the Name of God

Therefore they shall laugh little and weep much as a recompense for what they earned.

(HOLY QORAN) (9:82)

OPINION

Externalizing Domestic Problems, an Old Ploy

Embroiled in neck-to-neck confrontation with the popularly elected government of Necmettin Erbakan, the Turkish Army is trying to externalize domestic problems.

Kenan Deniz, in charge of the Turkish Army's internal security operations, has accused Iran of supporting the PKK and the local Hezbollah in Turkey.

While charging baseless accusations against Iran, another army general has even threatened to use force against Turkey's neighbors.

In launching its new rhetoric against Turkey's neighbors, the Turkish army follows two objectives: First, the army's failure to contain the PKK separatist activities has forced the Turkish Army to point fingers at others in order to justify its inefficiency. Secondly, the army is trying to label the popularly elected government of Erbakan as 'fundamentalist' in order to prepare the ground for its interference and ultimately overthrow of the civil government.

Iran is a strong opponent of Kurdish separatism in any country with a Kurdish minority. Therefore, it is totally baseless to accuse Iran of supporting the PKK. Time and again, Iranian officials have said that there is no PKK base in Iran. Even Turkish officials have acknowledged that there is no PKK base in Iran.

Turkish army generals must bear in mind that the Islamic Republic of Iran is mighty enough to defend its borders. We have put behind the eight years of the Iraqi war, which was tantamount to a confrontation between Iran and most of the big powers, for they unanimously supported Iraq.

Ironically, the statements of the army generals come at a time when the Zionist regime and the U.S. have already launched their anti-Iran campaign through the notorious Mykonos trial. The statements of Turkish officials are one kind of playing into the U.S.-Zionist hands.

The externalization of domestic problems is an old ploy. The generals in Ankara had better try to set their home in order instead of externalizing domestic problems. Today, we are living in a transparent world. Secularism is not synonymous with the rule of generals. Generals must respect the people's vote and keep away from politics. Marring Iran-Turkey relations is a service to the Zionist regime and the U.S. The majority of army generals and officers in Turkey are nationalists, who do not want their country to be subservient to Washington. They will not allow a handful of generals to submit to Washington diktats.

Greek Premier Deplores Recalling Ambassadors From Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis in an interview with the German radio, DLF, rejected Bonn's criticism against Athens for not recalling its ambassador from Tehran following a Berlin court verdict linked with the Mykonos case, an IRNA report said.

Greek news agency ANA on Tuesday reported that Simitis exercised criticism over the hasty character of recalling ambassadors from Tehran which was demanded by Germany, as well as for the absence of necessary processes in the framework of the European Union in connection with the issue.

"We were of the view, and I believe rightly, that it was not necessary for us to decide at that moment but that we could have waited for two days to discuss them jointly so as not to make one step forward and two backwards, ANA quoted Simitis telling the German radio.

Velayati: Return of EU Envoys to Tehran, Major Setback for U.S.

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said here on Wednesday that the return of EU ambassadors to Tehran is considered a major defeat for the U.S foreign policy.

Addressing a press conference attended by foreign and Iranian reporters, Velayati stressed that America did its best to force European countries not to dispatch their ambassadors to Tehran recalled for consultations in the wake of a Berlin court verdict, but of no avail.

"These ambassadors will not be welcomed in Tehran," Velayati noted adding that "we won't be upset if they never return."

On the possibility of complete break in relations between the European Union countries and Iran and ban on visa issuance for security officials, Velayati said that Iran would reciprocate such measures.

He said that Iran is a rich country, has good revenues from oil sales and will purchase goods from any country producing quality goods.

"They race to sell their goods to Iran, so there is no reason for Iran to be worried about severance of ties with Europe," the foreign minister said.

Velayati questioned, "What on earth Europeans manufacture that others can't do? We absolutely need no country's unilateral help and if we have economic relations with other countries, they are based on mutual benefits and mutual respect."

The foreign minister emphasized that Iran will react to any incorrect and negative stance taken against it with exactly the same vehemence.

Velayati said that one should differentiate between various parts of the EU statement and the approach of other countries to it but all in all the statement was a major setback for the foreign policy of the United States.

He said that the statement of the European countries betrayed the disability of some European countries to take correct decision and their political backwardness.

Since the analysis of the European countries are not realistic, their policies towards Iran and other parts of the world have not been successful, he said.

Velayati added that for the same reason, the EU cannot claim that its policies have been successful in different parts of the world such as the Far East, Southeast Asia, former Soviet republics, Africa and so on.

In reaction to some parts of the EU statement concerning sponsoring of terrorism and signing of the convention banning the use of chemical weapons, Velayati said that Iran signed the treaty in Paris and more recently in New York.

At present, he said, the government is now studying the treaty and it will sign the treaty if approved by the Iranian parliament.

Calling the EU statement's reference to the signing of the convention prohibiting use of chemical weapons as a passive reaction on the part of the European Union to the move taken by Iranian chemically wounded soldiers, Velayati said that Iran was perhaps the most active country in the Third World in relation to the drafting of the convention.

On Iran's alleged support for terrorism, the foreign minister said that there are notorious people with records of terrorist activities living in European countries. "We consider them as elements trained by the Westerners to put pressure on Iran," he added.

Asked if invitation letters of President Rafsanjani will be delivered to the Egyptian and Iraqi presidents and to the king of Jordan to attend an OIC summit in Tehran in December, Velayati responded that such invitations will certainly be extended to those countries but who will deliver the letters and when have yet to be determined.

Velayati emphasized that Iran's relations with the East, including Russia, China, the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent and other regional states have been growing in recent years. He also reiterated that regional cooperation is among the most important priorities in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. (IRNA)

Iraqi Kurdish Groups Reach Agreement in Tehran

TEHRAN — Senior representatives of two Iraqi Kurdish groups, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan (IMK) ended their talks here Tuesday evening.

The meetings, initiated by Tehran, laid preliminary grounds for final agreements between the heads of the two parties.

Top delegates of the two sides were invited to Tehran following the recent clashes. The urgency to hold on to the cease-fire and continue with the negotiations aimed at ending the conflict was stressed in repeated sessions, held in the presence of officials of the Islamic Republic.

According to a statement released at the end of the talks, the PUK and IMK stressed the need to hold on to the cease-fire announced last night.

Furthermore, neither of the two sides should violate the cease-fire and negotiations should continue until the complete cessation of all hostilities and return to normalcy and mutual cooperation which will guarantee the interests of the people of Iraqi Kurdistan, the statement added. (IRNA)

Besharati: Any Illegal Entry to Iran Should Be Dealt With

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Interior Minister and head of Border Control Headquarters Ali Mohammad Besharati, here Tuesday, underlined friendly relations among neighboring states, saying that any illegal entry into the Islamic Republic of Iran should be severely and strictly dealt with, IRNA reported.

Besharati, addressing the meeting of border control headquarters of the Interior Ministry, stated that the Law Enforcement Forces have the orders to arrest any intruders and hand them over to responsible officials.

He said the Islamic Iran was closely cooperating with neighboring countries to guarantee that the borders are fully secure and



that no illegal entries can be made into or out of Iran.

Referring to the undiscovered land mines at some Western border points left over from the eight years of imposed war (1980-88), Besharati said initiatives needed to be taken to clean the area of the remaining mines.

He also thanked the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and the valiant Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their brilliant holding of the Tariq-ul-Qods amphibious maneuvers in the Western and southern areas of the country.

The interior minister added that the forces were able to achieve their pre-determined objectives.

Kyrgyz, Kazakh Foreign Ministers Call On Velayati

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Kush Chubekev Talant who said, "We are sure that under the chairmanship of Iran the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) will materialize its accords, important documents and constructive goals.

He added that his country attaches great significance to ECO and is determined to take an active part in the 10-nation group's activities.

Velayati welcomed promotion of Tehran-Bishkek relations and said that in view of the two countries' historical commonalities he sees excellent prospects of the Irano-Kyrgyz relations.

Iranian foreign minister and his Kazakh counterpart Kasymzhomart Tokayev in a meeting on Tuesday exchanged views on promotion of Tehran-Almaty ties and regional and international issues of mutual interests.

In the meeting, Totayev took note of the importance of the two nations' friendly relations, saying his country was ready to further promote the existing level of the bilateral relations and that Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev himself attaches great importance to Irano-Kazakh ties.

In a meeting with Velayati, the Turkish Minister of State for Coordination of Government Salim Ensarioglu said here on Tuesday that Iran is a country that has contributed a lot to combat terrorism.

Velayati said good neighborly relations between the two nations are centuries old.

Tajik Deputy PM Confers With Habibi

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Visiting Tajik Deputy Premier Khalis Teimurjanov along with minister of Foreign Economic Relations Ghaforov called on Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi here on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Teimurjanov briefed Habibi on his talks with other Iranian officials and said that the cultural bonds shared by the two countries coupled with their political willingness has brought about a suitable ground for further promotion of their multilateral relations.

He hailed the efforts and initiatives of Iranian officials for restoring peace and tranquility in the region particularly in Tajikistan, and expressed hope that Iran would continue its humanitarian assistance for the Tajik nation during the reconstruction process.

Habibi in reply foresaw as promising and bright the prospects of the two countries' cooperation, saying the Islamic Republic's foreign policy gives priority to promotion of relations with Central Asian republics.

Towards the end of the meeting the Iranian first vice president expressed hope that restoration of peace and tranquility in Tajikistan will pave the way for the two countries to expand their economic cooperation particularly in the sectors of oil, gas and petrochemicals, as well as the setting up of power station.

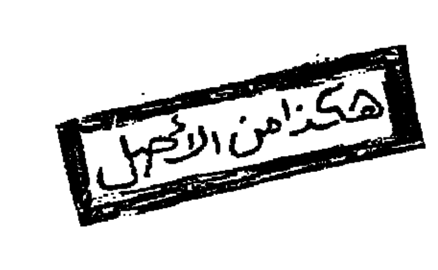
Foreign Minister to Visit Beirut

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is to pay an official visit to Beirut, Lebanon, to to deliver President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's message to Elias Hrawi, the Lebanese president.

Velayati is to hold talks with Lebanese president, prime minister and other top officials, IRNA quoted the Iranian Ambassador Homayoun Alizadeh as saying during his meeting with Dhafer al-Hassan, director general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

The two sides exchanged views on the possibility of expanding bilateral relations, the latest regional and international developments and the forthcoming visit of Hrawi to the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Habibi Cables Congratulatory Message to Indian Premier

TEHRAN — First Vice-President Hassan Habibi cabled a congratulatory message to Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, in which he felicitated him on his election to the post of premiership.

Considering traditional friendship and age-old bonds shared by Iran and India and your excellency's interest in the preservation common traditional, historical and cultural heritages as well as in seeing the healthy growth and promotion of bilateral ties, I'm sure that we would witness further consolidation of relations at bilateral, regional and international levels during the term of your premiership, read the message. (IRNA)

EU Declaration Invalid, Unjustifiable

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement Wednesday in response to the April 29 declaration of the Council of European Union (EU), describing it as invalid and unjustifiable "constituting a grave breach of international law and the norms governing the conduct of inter-state affairs."

The statement reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the declaration of 29 April 1997 of the Council of European Union (EU) as a product of politically motivated media sensationalism orchestrated by Zionist circles and colored by the residues of colonial attitudes. It constitutes a grave breach of international law and the norms governing the conduct of inter-state affairs, and is therefore invalid and unjustifiable. The following consideration must be underlined:

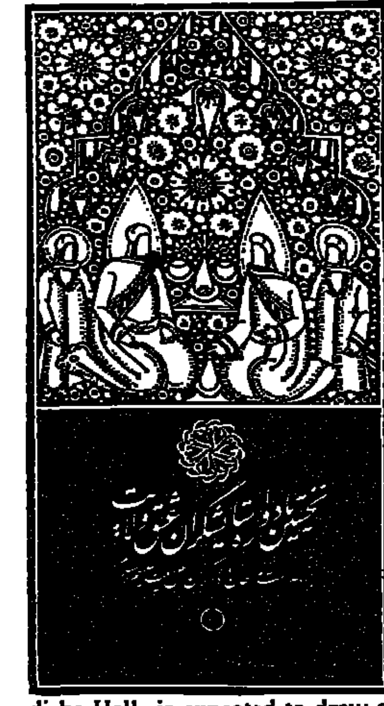
"The pseudo-legal accusations by the judge of the domestic court in Berlin alleging Iranian involvement in the Mykonos case which have been depicted with further distortion as the basis for the statement of 10 April 1997 of the presidency and the 29 April declaration of the Council of the European Union not only are pure fabrications and totally baseless but also constitute a flagrant violation of universally-recognized principles of international law and rules of due process. Such practices are unacceptable and condemned by the international community.

"Claims by the European countries to combat terrorism are pure demagoguery, particularly in light of the fact that acknowledged terrorists continue to operate freely in the territories of EU member states and with the latter's full and public support, organize, direct, finance and armed terrorist operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The member states of the EU are not in a position to evade their responsibility for their official policy of state-sponsorship of terrorism by levelling baseless and irresponsible accusations against a major victim of that terrorism, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The council's call on Iran to ratify the chemical weapons convention is nothing more than a propaganda ploy. It is a matter of public record that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a victim of chemical weapons supplied to Iraq by some EU member-states. Iran has also been one of the major forces behind the convention and one of its first signatories. (IRNA)

Appreciation Ceremony Planned for Eulogists of Velayat

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — With the approaching month of Moharram, month of the victory of blood over sword, the lovers of Imam Hussein plan to extol the sincere and valuable efforts of faithful eulogists of the Holy Prophet's (SAW) Household, particularly those who have strived all these years to keep the memory of the revolt of Imam Hussein (AS) alive.

The Office of Literature of the Arts Seminary (affiliated to the Islamic Propagation Organization) has announced the holding of a first-ever appreciation ceremony in honor of the eulogists of *Velayat-e-Faqih* (Supreme Muslim Jurisprudent). The ceremony, slated to be held from May 4 to 6, 1997 at the Arts Seminary's Andishe Hall, is expected to draw a large number of eulogists.

It will be opened by Majlis Speaker Ali Akkbar Nateq Nouri who will deliver the inspirational talk.

Mirsalim: Iran Ready to Help Oman Restore Manuscripts

TEHRAN — Visiting Omani Minister of National Heritage and Culture Seyed Faisal bin Ali As-Said conferred with the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyed Mostafa Mirsalim in a meeting here today.

At the meeting the Omani minister emphasized on the need to further promote the two countries' cultural cooperation, adding that by taking big strides in their cultural cooperation the two nations would be able to help and strengthen communications between the peoples of the nations.

Mirsalim said for his part that Iran and Oman will be able to expand their cultural cooperation particularly in the fields of traditional arts, archaeology, setting up of book and cultural fairs, exchange of the periodicals and renovation of the historical monuments.

Iran is ready to restore the available manuscripts in the Omani libraries, the Iranian minister suggested, adding that a draft of cultural accord could be inked between Tehran and Muscat during the Omani minister's stay here. (IRNA)

Lebanese Groups Fully Support Iran Against U.S.-Zionist Plots

BEIRUT — The various groups of Lebanon in a meeting here on Tuesday threw their full support behind the Islamic Republic of Iran against the plots of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

The large gathering included religious and political leaders, academicians, representatives from different political groups, eminent Palestinians, several ambassadors as well as supporters of Islamic Iran.

Sheikh Naim Qassem, the Deputy Secretary General of Lebanese Hizbollah, stressed that the Lebanese people are firmly behind the Islamic Republic.

He added that Germany has made a big blunder by taking a stand against Islamic Iran, thus falling in the snare set by the United States. Bonn has lost its standing among the nations in the region.

He further pointed out that since Islamic Iran had been able to resist and fight back the arrogant powers and the Ba'athist regime of Iraq, it will again emerge successful in this new conspiracy.

The Minister of war refugees, and Head of Parti Socialiste Progressiste (PSP), Walid Joumblatt, pointing out the United States' impotency in enforcing sanctions against Islamic Iran, said the new conspiracy against the Islamic Revolution will be ineffective and that the United States shall be defeated by Iran again.

Joumblatt, who is the leader of the Druze community, praised the Hizbollah and Lebanese people for putting up a strong resistence against the Zionists, adding that they will eventually succeed in neutralizing the U.S. and Zionist plots in the region. (IRNA)

Over One Ton of Narcotics Confiscated in Khorasan Prov.

BIRJAND — Some 1,367 kgs of narcotic were seized after a gunbattle with drug traffickers in the southern parts of Khorasan Province, colonel Seyed Hamid Mousavi said here on Tuesday.

One of the traffickers was killed in the clash and one vehicle, a motor bike, 4 RPJ-7 rocket launchers along with some ammunition were confiscated from the smugglers, Mousavi added. (IRNA)

Yemen Calls For Medical Cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN — Health Minister Ali-Reza Marandi and Yemeni Ambassador to Tehran Abdullah Mohammad al-Razi in a meeting here on Tuesday discussed the possibility of Yemeni students studying at Iranian medical colleges.

Al-Razi said that his country was willing to make use of Iran's successful experiences in the field of health care, calling for inking of a memorandum of understanding by Iran and his country in the fields of health care and medical education. (IRNA)

Commerce Minister Inaugurates Iran's Exhibition in Doha



DOHA, Qatar: The Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade of Qatar, Sheikh Mohamed ibn Khalifa al-Thani (L) and the Iranian Trade Minister, Yahya al-Ishaq (R), cut 29 April in Doha the ribbon for the opening of the Iranian Trade Exhibition which will last one week.

(AFP PHOTO)

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Iranian Commerce Minister Yahya al- Ishaq arrived in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday to inaugurate Iran's trade exhibition.

The Qatari Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade, Sheikh Mohamed ibn Khalifa al-Thani was also present at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, IRNA reported.

66 Iranian industrial and commercial companies have put on display their products at the one-week exhibition.

Speaking upon arrival at Doha airport, Al-Ishaq praised the Qatari officials for their efforts to promote Tehran-Doha relations particularly in the areas of economy and trade.

He expressed hope that a shipping line will be established between Iran's southern city of Bushehr and Doha to facilitate transfer of passengers and goods between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Al-Thani said that the current visit of Iranian minister to Qatar will pave the way for further expansion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Despite U.S. Sanctions, Iranian Economy Growing

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Despite the U.S government's best attempt to commercially isolate Iran, first through imposing a trade and investment ban on U.S firms doing business with Iran back in 1995 followed by punitive measures on non-U.S companies investing more than $40 million annually in Iran, the Iranian economy has been experiencing positive growth rates, stressed a newspaper specializing in Middle East affairs.

To add insult to injury, IMF officials have predicted that despite U.S sanctions, Iran's economy has shown signs of improvement in 1996-97, said the Middle East Times *(MET)* in an article in its latest edition.

The IMF expects the economy in Iran to touch 4 percent growth rates in 1997, up from 3.5 percent and 1.6 percent in 1996 and 1995, respectively, said MET.

The *Middle East Times* is based in Cairo but published by a British publisher.

Inflation in Iran is expected to fall from 50 percent to 20 percent this year. Foreign currency reserves have jumped to between $8 billion and 8.5 billion as a result of higher than expected oil prices.

Futhermore, Iran seems not to be having any problems servicing its foreign debts, which currently amounts to around $17.5 billion, MET said.

The article noted that an international exhibition of oil, gas petrochemicals industries and products being held in Tehran during 23rd to 27th April is expected to attract a number of European participants.

The French government, a leading opponent of U.S sanctions, has actively supported a number of its companies to expand their activities in Iran while renewing export credit guarantees to French firms planning to export goods to Iran.

Total, the French oil and gas giant, has substantial interests in Iran's oil and gas sector. At the moment Total, after announcing its lack of concern for U.S policy, is developing the Sirri 'A' and 'E' offshore oil fields.

In addition, Total has made a formal bid to develop the $900 million second phase of the South Pars offshore gas field project, reportedly the largest in the country.

MET said the Russians have dealt another blow to the U.S policy of isolating Iran by signing a general agreement to broaden Russian- Iranian economic relations in December 1996.

The fact of the matter is that Iran has long-term agreements with many foreign companies and it is quite unlikely these companies will leave Iran just because the U.S. wants them to do so, concluded the MET article.

Iran-Singapore Economic Relations Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Singapore's Minister of Finance, Richard Hu, said in Singapore Tuesday that his country encourages public and private sectors to invest in Iran.

He made the remark in a meeting with Iran's accredited ambassador to Singapore, Mohsen Nabavi, IRNA reported.

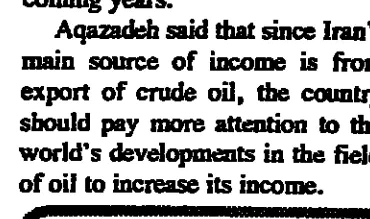
Hu added that the government has instructed the public and private sectors to make use of Iran's transportation facilities for exports of goods to Central Asian republics via Bandar Abbas-Tajan railways.

Both officials underlined the need to further promote Tehran-Singapore economic relations.

Meanwhile, the deputy Singaporean minister of commerce, in a meeting with Nabavi, called for holding of trade meetings between the two countries to further expand bilateral economic relations.

The Iranian ambassador also outlined new facilities offered to investors in Iran's free trade and industrial zones.

World's Energy Annual Trade, $500bn



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The oil trade including its excavation, extraction, production, shipping and marketing of oil and gas, is the biggest world's in terms of its value which amounts to $500 bilion annually.

Talking yesterday at Iran's First National Energy Gathering here Minister of Oil Gholamreza Aqazadeh said the above and added in spite of all efforts by world industrialized countries and consumers to cut energy consumption, specially oil and fossil fuels, consumption of such fuels has been increasing in the last decades.

He said that on the basis of the research works carried out by the world's energy experts consumption of fossil fuels will be increased further in future.

The minister went on to say that according to estimates, the world's requirement to OPEC's production will be increased in the coming years.

Aqazadeh said that since Iran's main source of income is from export of crude oil, the country should pay more attention to the world's developments in the field of oil to increase its income.

Seventh ECO Session Concludes

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Seventh Foreign Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) wound up its work here Tuesday.

Turkish Minister of State, Salim Ensarioglu, told the one-day session that we (ECO members) have attained peace and stability through ECO and that economic cooperation and development are receiving serious attention, IRNA said.

Ensarioglu stressed the need for expediting commerce in the region, saying that transportation and communications played a vital role in this regard as is clear by the opening of the Tajan-Sarakks-Mashhad railway link.

He stated that his country attaches great significance to the issues of banking and insurance.

Boris Sheikh-Moradov, the Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, said ECO was a suitable organization for the promotion of regional cooperation.

Turkmenistan has adopted a ten-year economic plan based on the decisions made at the 10-nation ECO to control its annual inflation rate.

He described the conditions in Afghanistan and Azerbaijan as miserable', and appealed to regional nations to closely cooperate in order to end the crisis in Afghanistan.

Shamshad Ahmad, the Pakistani Foreign Secretary stated that ECO had attained its objectives during the short period of its life and that the organization was gaining momentum.

International Workers' Day Observed

Tehran Times Service

.TEHRAN - 1300,000 workers in southern Tehran staged a special ceremony to mark the International Workers' Day (May Day).

Secretary of the Laborer' House Abdullahi delivered a statement on measures to improve the working conditions and promotion of medical insurance for the workers, IRNA reported.

He said the labour university would be set up soon for educating the workers and their children.

Abdullahi listed the demands of the workers concerning pays and other benefits to be forwarded to the ministry of labor and social affairs.

The 4th Abu Dhabi Int'l Trade Fair Opens

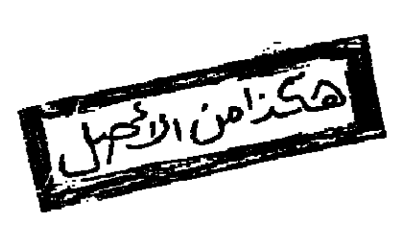
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Fourth International Abu Dhabi Trade Fair opened on Sunday with 34 countries participating.

Twenty-four Iranian manufacturing, industrial and trading companies displayed their products in such fields as construction materials and tools, reservoir tanks, home appliances and steel products.

Many visited Iran's pavilion which covers an area of 330 square meters.

The eight-day exhibition runs through May 4.



SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

FOOTBALL

Bans and Fines Dished Out for South Americans

ZURICH, Switzerland: World football's ruling body FIFA on Tuesday dished out a raft of fines and suspensions relating to the ugly scenes of fighting both on and off the pitch that accompanied the Bolivia-Argentina and Paraguay-Colombia World Cup qualifiers on April 2.

The sanctions included bans ranging between one and four games for three Argentine and three Colombian players, notably Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla, and fines for both the Bolivian and Argentine football associations.

FIFA's action followed a stormy night of football that saw Bolivia shock Argentina 2-1 and Paraguay surprise visiting Colombia by the same score.

Fiorentina, Porto, Aek Athens Hit by UEFA

NYON, Switzerland: Italian club Fiorentina will have to play its next two European matches at least 500 kilometers from Florence following the missile-throwing incidents that marred their European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal with Barcelona last Thursday.

European football's ruling body UEFA also fined the Italians, and announced financial penalties for Portuguese club Porto and Aek Athens of Greece.

Weary Germans Cannot Afford Slip Up

BONN: Not even a win on Wednesday evening in Bremen will see Germany dislodge Ukraine from the top of World Cup qualifying Group 9, but it would go a long way to smoothing away the furrows in coach Berti Vogts' brow.

The Ukrainians, most of whom play for Dynamo Kiev, have proven a surprise packet (12 points) with four wins from their five games so far. A further win would make them odds on favorites to play in France next year while Portugal (9 points) and Germany (8 points) would be left scrabbling for second place.

The German ranks have been thinned by injury with Borussia Dortmund trio Andreas Moeller, Stefan Reuter and Lars Ricken all withdrawing because of muscle strains.

Monaco All but Crowned French Champions

PARIS: Monaco were all but crowned champions of France on Tuesday when second-half goals from Sonny Anderson and Victor Ikpeba gave them a 2-0 win at fourth-placed Strasbourg.

Monaco now lead the French first division by 12 points from Paris Saint Germain, who mathematically could still catch them by winning their last four games, assuming Jean Tigana's men lose their last three.

Even in that unlikely event, Monaco have the added insurance of a vastly superior goal difference and will be crowned champions if PSG fail to win at Lille on Wednesday.

CRICKET

Sri Lanka Sight Victory in Second Test

COLOMBO: Aravinda de Silva's third century in a row and a fiery burst by Chaminda Vaas left Pakistan gasping for survival in the second cricket test against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday.

Set an improbable victory target of 426, or a minimum of 121 overs to battle for a draw, Pakistan limped to 28 for two by the end of the fourth day's play at the Sinhalese sports club ground.

De Silva, who scored 168 in the opening test and 138 not out in the first innings here, smashed an unbeaten 103 off 99 balls as Sri Lanka flayed the depleted Pakistani attack.

Opener Sanath Jayasuriya chipped in with 106, his second test century, and skipper Arjuna Ranatunga hammered 66 off 62 balls before Sri Lanka closed their second innings at 386 for four soon after tea.

Springbok Skipper Leads Ireland to Maiden Win

LONDON: South Africa Captain Hansie Cronje was the toast of Irish cricket on Tuesday as he led Ireland to their first ever win over an English County side by beating Middlesex by 46 runs in Dublin.

Cronje, contracted to play in the Benson and Hedges Cup campaign in an estimated 20,000 pounds-a-year deal, only arrived in Dublin on Friday but was instrumental as Ireland put the disappointment of narrowly failing to qualify for the World Cup behind them.

His unbeaten 94 was the cornerstone of Ireland's 281 for four, their best ever total against County opposition, and left Middlesex struggling to avoid a humiliating defeat when they resumed on 134 for six this morning because of rain on Monday.

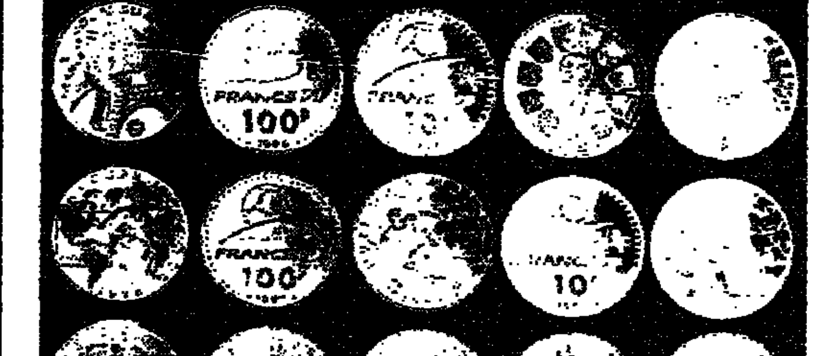
TABLE TENNIS

China to Welcome European Elite

MANCHESTER, England: China's women beat North Korea 3-0 in the World Table Tennis Championship team final here on Tuesday, before the Chinese team manager agreed to welcome European women players into their training set up.

Li Furong, world men's singles runner-up three times in succession to Chuang Tse Tung in 1961, 1963 and 1965, said it would be possible for the likes of Romania's world number 27 Otilia Badescu and European champion Nicole Struse of Germany to train for periods in their country.

World number four Yang Ying, world and Olympic champion Deng Yaping and Li Ju defeated North Korea's Wi Bok Sun, Kim Hyon Hui and Tu Jong Sil respectively in an all-Asian final.



PARIS, France (April 29): Eleven heads and four tails of a 15-piece gold and silver collection dedicated to the 1998 Soccer World Cup were launched by La Monnaie de Paris in association with the Mondial 98 Organizing Committee. The coins are printed with images relating to past and present soccer World Cups. (From bottom R corner: Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Italy, England and (middle row R) Uruguay, the six countries which won the past World Cups.)

(AFP PHOTO)

Asian Representatives of National Olympic Committees in Tehran Meeting

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The national Olympic committees' officials and general secretaries from 16 different western Asian countries are to hold a session here on Friday May 2, to discuss how to hold the first round of sports games in the area.

"The meeting is to be attended by representatives from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and UAE," said the secretary general of the National Iranian Olympic Committee, Seyed Amir Hosseini.

"The timetable for the games is going to be discussed too," he added. Any of the fields with at least 6 participating teams will be put on the games program. In the gathering the draft of articles of association of the western Asian states federation is supposed to be discussed and ratified and also the members of the executive committee and the second host of the games will be selected.

The secretary general of National Iranian Olympic Committee will present a report on the measures and activities implemented for holding the games.



STRASBOURG, BAS RHIN, France (April 29): Monaco's Nigerian striker Ikpeba (R) overtakes Strasbourg's defender Philippe Rascke in Strasbourg during their French premiership match. Monaco is currently leading 2-0 after Ikpeba scored the second goal.

(AFP PHOTO)

France and China Meet in World Final

MANCHESTER, England — France and China meet in the men's team event final after both had semifinal victories at the World Table Tennis Championships here on Tuesday.

France beat Germany 3-2 to join China, who beat South Korea 3-1 earlier in the day, in Wednesday's final.

China's top trio of Olympic champion Liu Guoliang, Asian Games winner Wang Tao and world champion Kong Linghui sent China through to their 13th final in the last 14 world events.

Only in Chiba in 1991, when they finished seventh, have the sport's torchbearers suffered the indignity of not making the final, finishing a poor seventh.

Liu Guoliang faced world number five Kim Taek Soo in the opener in a battle of the two best penholders in the world.

Kim raised his arm in triumph after winning the first point with a net to set the mood for this hotly contested match. But Kim, playing away from the table, was hardly a match for the close-to-the-table hitting of Liu who continually outmaneuvered his opponent.

Liu, generally considered the world's best server, raced to a 13-7 lead, leaving Kim, regarded as the fittest player in the world, unable to reach his shots which swung out wide on both wings.

World Cup winner Liu won the match 21-14, 22-20 though Kim did pull back to 19-19, after lobbing 20 feet from the table forcing a smash error from Liu.

Liu missed a match point at 20-19, but earned another shot at 21-20 when he got a lucky net prompting an error from Kim.

(AFP)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 37)

You can be successful in all fields if you restrain your passion and concupiscence. Meanwhile, the monotonous exercises bring about nothing but boredom. An athlete or a trainer should always program his practice with innovation and new ideas. If you set your trainees a monotonous exercise during the week, they feel weary in body and mind. Conversely, various programs and exercises as follows are always decent and pleasing for you and your trainees:

A) Saturday: *1) Running 2) Warm-up 3) Broad jump 4) Kicks 5) Techniques*

B) Monday: *1) Running 2) Warm-up 3) Stretching exercises 4) Speed exercises 5) Blows*

C) Wednesday: *1) Stretching exercises 2) Running 3) Broad jump 4) Challenge 5) Lifting weight*

D) Friday: *1) Swimming or 2) Climbing*





Running: As we know running is the mother of sports. To enjoy a fine and well-developed physique as well as breathing ability, you have to run for half an hour every day or every other day. Running as a part of your exercises should not be monotonous either. In other words, you have to give variety to it by changing your speed and type of running, marathon and speed. The trainers can arrange for their trainees some matches. Of course, broad jump and high jump are also among the basics of the martial arts.

Warm-up: To start exercise, the athletes have to at first warm up their bodies through turning its different parts, otherwise they will suffer from contraction of muscles, backache, etc. When running is finished, it is time for warming up the body by turning its different parts including ankles, knees, waist, shoulders, neck and trunk. All these parts should be turned in two opposite directions.

Stretching exercises: They should be put on all athletic programs and exercises. The body has two types of muscles: Those which are under your control and act according to your orders and those which work automatically such as heart. To have a fit and flexible body, you have to do stretching exercises individually or in pairs.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PEOPLE...

We should not be dictated to by the West. Some of the Western countries, particularly the United States, are enemies of the Islamic Revolution. They should not be allowed to treat us any way the like.

Asadollah Qeydar, self-employed:

The policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran on relations with the West have been delineated and defined by the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini and the grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and the next president is expected to follow the same policies.

Ms. Najafi, a student:

We should utilize our domestic potential to such an extent that our dependence on other countries is minimized.

Ms. Fashki, a student of management:

We should have commercial ties with the Western countries, but should not be dependent on them. As we need them for some commodities, they need us too. Through adopting an appropriate policy, the next president should make the Western countries realize this.

Ms. Dehqan, a math teacher:

You can see how Germans treated us in the Mykonos case. I think our government did not respond strongly. The Iranian people are well aware of the fact that German companies sold chemical weapons to Iraq during its war against Iran. Therefore, holding protest demonstrations inside the country do not have such a strong influence on the public opinion of other countries. The reason is that the Western media do not cover the demonstrations properly. Thus, the government is expected to convey to other nations through proper means the facts on the supply of chemical weapons by Germany to Iraq and complicity of Germans in the crimes committed by Saddam Hussein. Overall, the next president should take a stronger stance on issues like these.

Next, those polled were asked how much they trusted the presidential election and how they rated the electioneering and publicity campaign launched by some presidential candidates.

Abbas Danesh:

Recently, it has been seen that some representatives in the Parliament speak in favor of a certain presidential candidate. This should not happen. The people themselves should decide who they will vote for. However, it is encouraging that all of the presidential candidates are trusted by the people and all have a clear record of faithful service to the nation and Islamic system.

Asadollah Qeydar:

In my view, the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is sound. Now, if at some polling-stations there are violations of the election law by some of those in charge of counting the votes, this cannot be blamed on the Islamic system.

Ms. Dehqan:

I think people are entitled to vote for their favorite candidates. However, it seems that some of the candidates who intend to stand in the next presidential election are not qualified for the post, particularly in view of political experience.

Malek Abbasi, a taxi driver:

I believe political awareness of the Iranian people has greatly increased. I have been working as a taxi driver in Tehran for some 23 years and have been in touch with people from almost all walks of life. I can see that, today, people are much more politically-informed than in the era before the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

It is clear that those candidates having greater financial support will be able to launch their election campaign on a wider scale. But, the people will not be influenced by these factors. Most of the people have already made up their minds which candidate to vote for.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

TURKEY...

tween Turkey and Israel, Tayan is also scheduled to meet with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Levy.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

EU...

other people to be inferior," the president noted.

He said the Europeans have discriminatory approach towards their Muslim citizens and Iran has protested them for their discrimination of their minority groups.

"The EU has adopted a double-standard approach toward human rights. The countries lacking in even parliament are very good for them in terms of honoring human rights because the concession they make to the European states, but, a democratic country like Iran is accused by them of violating human rights," he said.

In Iran every minority group has its own representatives to the parliament, but, the European countries have discriminatory behavior towards their Muslim minorities.

The president referring to the approximate timing of the Berlin court statement with the United Nations Security Council resolution against Israel questioned "is the condemnation of Israel by the UN General Assembly is important or a statement made by a local judge in Germany.

(IRNA)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

SAHABI...

Islamic principles since 1963 but based on my own understanding not through the way of thinking which has emerged in Iran after the victory of the Islamic Revolution," he pointed out.

"We expected the Islamic government to stress the fundamentals of Islam such as monotheism, belief in the resurrection and the like not to implement the tenets of the Islamic jurisprudence," Sahabi stated.

Entrusting an individual with positions of responsibility should be based on clear and acceptable criteria such as efficiency, competence and national commitment not based on his beliefs. Also, the government positions should not be entrusted only to those who wear special costumes and who have studied special courses, he further said.

Regarding the approval of his qualifications for presidential candidacy by the Guardian Council, Sahabi said, "I don't know what the council's criteria are in this regard. But because I am not a non-religious or barred from political activities by the law, I expect my qualifications to be approved by the council. If the Guardian Council refuses to do so, I will file a lawsuit with the judicial authorities.

He added, "However, it is clear that the Guardian Council has a pessimistic view on the National Movement of Iran and its members and will be reluctant to approve my qualifications."

Elsewhere in the interview, Sahabi said that if elected president, he will replace all the ministers of the present cabinet except the Minister of Industries, Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, with young and experienced individuals who have national commitment.

Reaffirming his links with the National Movement of Iran, Sahabi said that the movement's criteria for choosing individuals are efficiency, expertise and national commitment, not Islamic commitment. "If someone is not committed to Islam but is committed to the interests of his country, I will certainly choose him to work with me," he stressed.

As for the relations between the Council to Determine the expediency of the Islamic System and the next president, he said that it seems that the council is above the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) in terms of authority. "The council may create restrictions for the next president. On the whole, I have some objections to it and in a letter that I wrote five years ago, I elaborated on its flaws," he added.

Asked whether he would have frictions with the Majlis if elected president, Sahabi said that he is for mutual understanding and would try to remove the differences and strengthen friendly ties between the government and people.

"If people elect me president, I can get along with the present officials of the Islamic Republic. Of course I will have some frictions with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corpse (IRGC), but in order to build a strong nation, I will try to bridge over our differences through negotiation," he added.

Concerning his attitude towards the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic system, he said that the full-scale economic and political independence were among the main objectives and ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

"But, presently, we have no economic independence. If I win the presidential election, I will borrow only from the domestic sources and will not ask for foreign loans. I will also prevent extravagance. The next ideal is freedom, and presently the political and social freedom of individuals are ignored. The first change I would like to see happen in the people's lives is the national unity," he noted.

On the economic plans of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and his own economic plans, Sahabi said, " The country's economy is not in good condition and the prescription for its recovery has been ordered by authorities in other countries. Having knowledge of the present economic condition, I will try to achieve the economic development by using the domestic potential and resources."

He added, "The strategic policy of promoting exports without replacing them with imports is harmful to the country and has already proven to be a failure. President Rafsanjani is doing his utmost, but he is trying to implement the plans hastily due to his political objectives. This action has no economic justification and does not guarantee the return of the capital. Rather, it is a waste of energy and money due to the lack of national unity."

Regarding the chances of his success in the next presidential election, he told the Tehran Times that, presently, his electioneering is largely centered in the cities of Tehran, Mashhad and Isfahan, where he is giving out pamphlets.

But, he added, "So far, I have not been able to make speeches in places like mosques or universities. If I can address the different strata of the society, in view of the fact that the intellectual class is well acquainted with me, I think I can poll a large number of votes."

Ezzatollah Sahabi, 67, is the son of Dr. Yadollah Sahabi, who founded the Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI) together with Mahdi Bazargan. He graduated from Tehran University in mechanical engineering in 1952 and joined the National Resistance Movement in 1953. He was elected as a member of the central council of the LMI in 1961 after it was founded. Under the former regime, he was several times arrested and imprisoned. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he was appointed a member of the revolutionary council. He was also elected as a representative of Tehran constituency to the Experts Assembly to pass the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In 1980, he was appointed head of the Plan and Budget Organization and, in 1981, he announced he would continue his political and social activities independent of the LMI.

He was elected as a Tehran representative to the First Majlis. He has not been holding government positions since 1984. Sahabi launched the publication of Iran-e Farda in 1992 to air his views. He was held under detention for some six months in 1990.

A TV program titled hoviat (identity), which was broadcasted by the Iranian state television recently, included some of his statements against the LMI and also his remarks made among some opposition figures abroad.

Sahabi outlined his major future plans as follows:

1- Campaigning against monopolization of power and creating national unity;

2 - Advocating people's freedom and security;

3- Giving priority to expertise and national commitment in all executive areas;

4- Balancing economic development with reliance on domestic resources and underlining industrial growth and production and bridging over wide social gaps;

5- Making efforts to get the country out of political isolation through removing tension in foreign relations within the framework of national interests;

6-Providing people with the freedom to voluntarily practice their religious beliefs.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

4TH...

mentioned by the law does not exist in reality.

Director of the Pavilion of the Weekly Velayat-e Qazvin:

There is no color printing in Qazvin. We have asked for a license to establish a printing firm, but the officials say such a license cannot be issued to us because the circulation of our periodical is not large enough. But the fact is that the circulation of our weekly is some 10,000, which is acceptable for a local periodical.

The people are pleased with our periodical and no copies are returned to the office. If we did not face financial problems, especially the shortage of budget for purchasing paper, we would increase the circulation.

We face no problems in conveying the facts and criticizing the officials within the framework of the press law. We have allotted one page to airing the views of our readers.

Ahmadi, a pressman with the monthly Farhang-e Towse'e:

I believe the Iranian journalists enjoy complete freedom of expression. Regarding the problems facing the press in general, I should say that these problems will not be solved only through lowering the price of paper or granting similar facilities. In my view, even if you hand out a periodical free of charge, most of the people will not read it, since they have economic problems that prevent them from reading periodicals. It is clear that when there are not so many readers, the periodicals will face problems.

Director of the pavilion of the daily Ettela'at:

I think the major problem facing the newspapers and periodicals is shortage of paper and raw materials. On the freedom of the press, I should say that the journalists do not enjoy total freedom of expression. Some news items are not published due to some reasons and the pressmen are not so free as to publish whatever they like.

Director of the pavilion of the periodical Asr-e Ma:

So far, a lot of accusations have been leveled against our periodical. We requested the permission to publish our periodical as a weekly, but the permission was not granted. there are some officials who tend to impose restrictions on the freedom of the press. But, the measures presently taken indicate that the newspapers and periodicals will enjoy more freedom of expression in the future. The present press festival has an effective role in boosting the freedom of expression.

(Contd. From Pg. 11)

IRANIAN....

statistics reveal that the dependence of the Iranian press on foreign news agencies has considerably decreased. News about Islamic and Arabic countries are getting front page coverage in Iranian newspapers. The Iranian press cannot rely on distorted news propagated by foreign news agencies. It has proven that news agencies wilfully distort the truth about Muslims and the oppressed of the world in subservience to certain powers.

The issue of Palestine has long been a main concern of the Iranian mass media which has been giving its stories wide coverage in its publications. Science and technology are also of prime importance. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of mass media authorities to pay more attention to the quality and quantity of its press considering the latter's powerful role as the link between people and authorities. A strong press can serve as a protector of the people and as the government's listening ear to their problems.

(Contd from Pg.9)

ZAIRE...

contained a million Hutus. All the aid agencies predicted a humanitarian disaster, and agitated for an international military intervention. They were all wrong.

The Hutus in the camps fled Rwanda two years ago after a Hutu-led government carried out a genocide killing over half a million people of the minority Tutsi tribe. They fled to escape vengeance, though the Tutsi-dominated government that drove the killers out did not seek revenge. There have been arrests and trials in Rwanda, of course, but no mass reprisals.

The ordinary Hutus in the camps in Zaire knew this by last year, but they could not go home because the camps were run by the very same soldiers and Interhamwe militiamen who had committed the genocide. Mobutu's regime let the militiamen keep their arms, and they simply killed people who tried to return to Rwanda. And the aid agencies, with the best of intentions, became hopelessly complicit in this situation.

They ended up feeding and maintaining what were not really refugee camps, but rather terrorized concentration camps from which genocidal murderers launched raids back across the border into Rwanda. They predicted mass slaughter when the ADFL, in the course of liberating eastern Zaire, attacked the Hutu militia who ran the camps. And what happened? The militia fled deeper into Zaire, taking many innocent people with them as hostages — but 800,000 out of the million people who had been in the camps just went home.

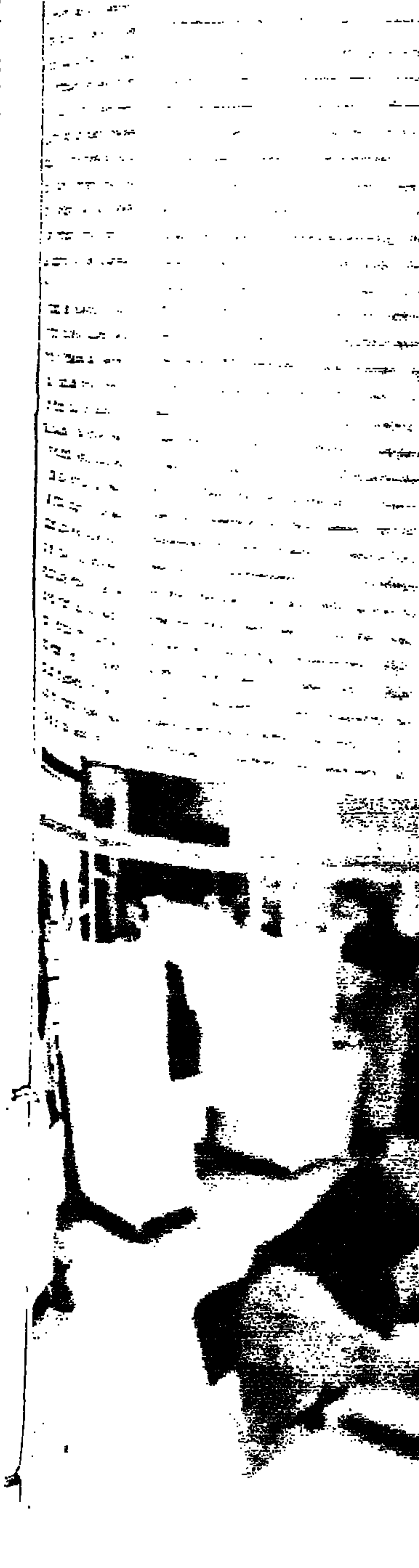
Remember those extraordinary scenes of rivers of humanity flowing back across the Rwandan border last November? The ADFL did not kill the Hutu refugees; it freed them. And the Rwandan government did not kill them either; it welcomed them home. In retrospect, it is clear that this was a preplanned operation.

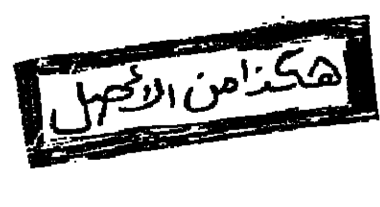
The Hutu refugees around Kisangani who are now allegedly the victims of a second 'final solution' are the 200,000-old who fled further west last year. They include many of the innocent, and all of the guilty — and the Interahamwe thugs are still there to ensure that nobody breaks ranks and tries to go home.

These Hutu militiamen, driven by a fierce racist hatred of Tutsis, were virtually the only troops who stood and fought for Mobutu as the ADFL swept through eastern Zaire in the past few months. They are not very popular with Kabila's men, and there have been clashed around the new camps south of Kisangani in recent weeks. Hundreds, or even thousands, may have been killed.

Such things happen in war, even though they shouldn't. But a systematic genocide? Tens of thousands, murdered? There is nothing in the ADFL's past behavior to make such an accusation plausible, and no rational reason for it to behave in such a way. Whereas the accusers have been wrong before, and as for the governments among them...well, all governments lie when it suits their purposes.

If I am wrong about this, then by spreading doubt about the validity of the emergency I could be contributing to the deaths of innocent people. But I smell a rat here, and I think it's the same rat I smelled before.





Women Find Life in Iran Enjoyable

(Interviews With Women Who Call It Their Home)

Part 2

Tehran Times Service

A woman civil servant holding BA:

These un-Islamic and Western tendencies shown by some women have turned into one of the most controversial concerns of the Islamic Revolution and a cultural and social malady in recent years.

Ayatollah Azari Qomi, an outstanding *alim* in Qom, in his book entitled "The Woman As Viewed Under An Islamic System" writes: "The Islamic government is duty-bound to preserve public chastity. Government should control and close centers vitiating public chastity. The government should exercise strict control of cinemas, amphitheaters, and the mass media apparatus. If the government fails to think out ways of preserving the chastity of women, the problem will most certainly give rise to serious concerns for the Islamic society."

At present the widening of this unfavorable cultural chasm has given rise to tensions and contradictions in Iranian society. Newspapers often take up stories of manifestations of this cultural impoverishment. Sometimes cultural and social organizations, as well as groups committed to certain causes, mount protest rallies calling on officials to deal seriously with this cultural setback. It can be said with certainty that the weakening of religious fervor among some women is one of the most important explanations for their sliding into Western values and following the non-Islamic way of life.

Let us now listen to the viewpoints of a number of our citizens:

- Since religious women are committed to religious tenets, they give great importance to moral and family values, preferring chastity above everything else. Women with no religious commitment are easily dragged towards perversion and destruction.

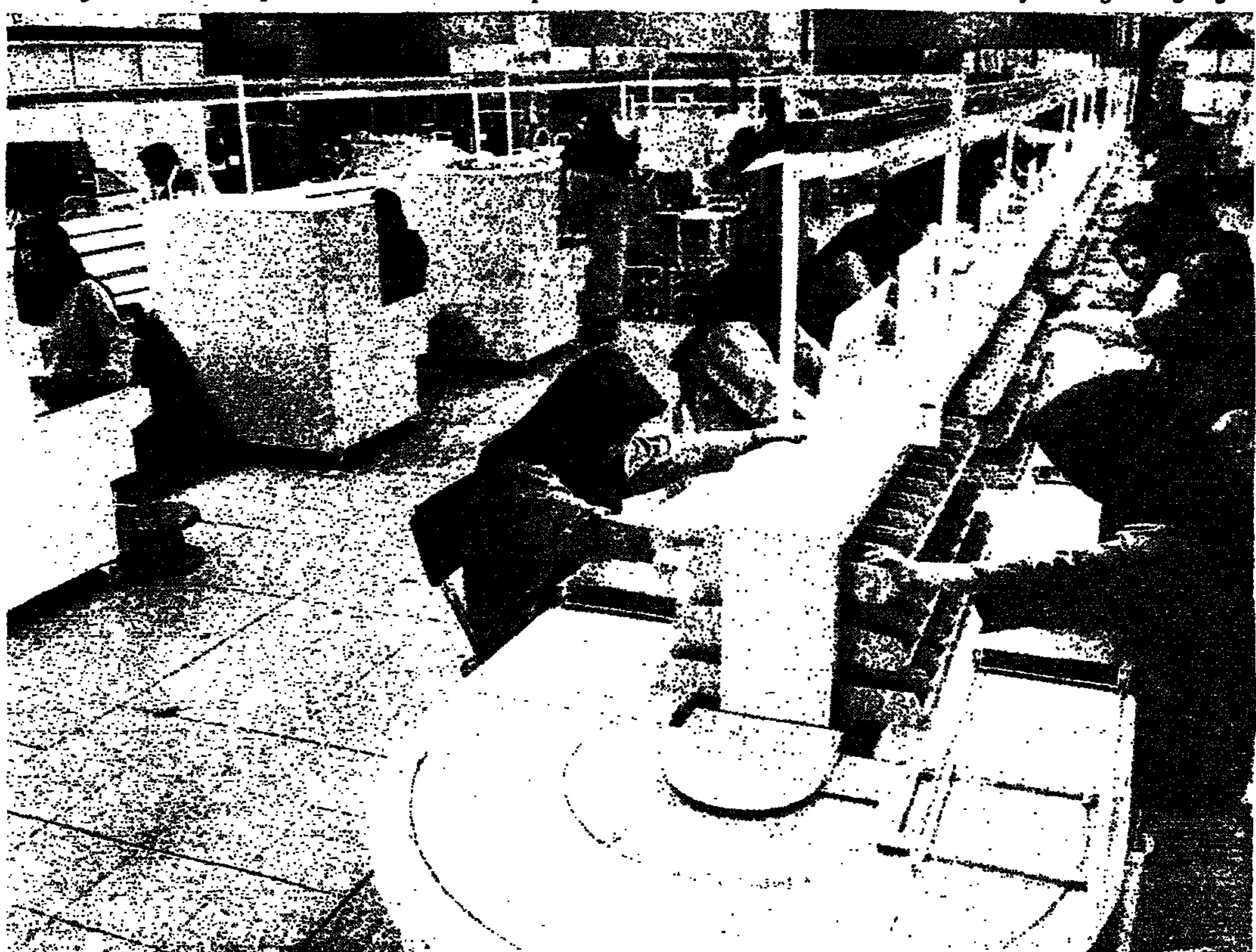
- The difference between religious and non-religious women lie in the fact that the former are committed to moral values but the latter are not. Our religion enables us to shun evil. A religious individual abstains from acts of perversion.

- Any individual holding moral, religious and conventional values will eventually live a more decent life. Absence of religious beliefs drags individuals to decadence.

It is appropriate, at this juncture, to highlight the role of Iranian women in strengthening the family unit. A comparison between Iranian and American women will not be out of place here. An American researcher, Barbara Whitehead, has come up with results on her 30-year research work on divorce in American society in a women's magazine. In her report, Whitehead writes that disintegration of families is counted as the main factor responsible for many controversial social dilemmas. As revealed by her studies, in the '80s divorce was an important factor in the rise in poverty among American children. Furthermore, she says that over 70 percent of delinquents in rehabilitation centers in the U.S. are those of unmarried parents or divorced couples. The conclusion is that the disintegration of families in the U.S. is a main factor in the growing rate of criminality in U.S. cities, and that every divorce is, in fact, a deterioration of a small segment of civilization.

On the other hand, Whitehead's research revealed, at a time when so-called advanced societies, such as those in the U.S. and many European countries, are suffering from disintegration of family life, a greater percentage of Iranian families remain cohesive and stable. To Iranian women undoubtedly go much of the credit for this stability.

However, the tendency of women, even those who have tried to pursue cultural excellence in thoughts inspired from tradition, and those who maintain habits running counter to progressive Islamic principles, in the name of feminism and equality of women and men, and to correct the image of women as being less than men, have caused certain segments of society to retrogress in giving reality to the original goals of the Islamic Revolution.



In order to explain the rights and duties of Muslim women to our readers, we took up in previous issues the cultural and religious requirements imposed on Muslim women by presenting the views of the late Imam Khomeini and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, and as a prelude to a discussion of their legal implications in this series of articles. In other words, we are attempting to tackle the question's theoretical framework.

Starting with this issue we will treat the dissertation entitled "Survey of Women's Role in Economic and Social Development by Reliance on Islamic Values and Calculation of the Value-Added Impact of Housekeeping on National Income" by Mrs. Rafat Bayat. It is our hope that we will arrive at a series of intellectual commonalties regarding the role of women in the development of society and the healthy upbringing of younger generations in the family as well as their intellectual and cultural upliftment from the Islamic perspective.

Although some of our readers are opposed to this method of cultural discussion and Islamic outlook, what is important is that one should always have conclusive reasons to support his/her beliefs, being fully aware of contradictory points of view. One should not be entangled in false political propaganda launched by countries opposed to religion and its role in politics and government, such as those against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In contrast to the propaganda campaign of Western countries, we Iranian women in this country have opted for a religious government with full understanding of the implications. We seek to improve its management and executive affairs. We do not deny our weaknesses in some organizational and executive affairs because we have retrieved this country with all its defects from a despotic government dependent on the U.S. and Israel and their allies. We admit we are not fully experienced to administer such a powerful Islamic government. We were about to gain experience when Iraq, motivated and supported by the U.S., imposed an eight-year long war on us. Prior to the war we were entangled, and still are, in political sabotages of the anti-revolutionaries and terrorist groups such as the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), popularly known as the "Munafeqin" or hypocrites, in and outside Iran. The plots and political movements of European countries, the U.S., and Israel against us have been on the increase. The latest of such conspiracies is the Berlin court's ruling on the Mykonos case. We have also suffered serious natural disasters such as quakes, floods, etc., which have caused us enormous economic and human losses. Each of these problems calls for several years of planning and hard work to overcome. In spite of all these, we endured the problems and continued the country's reconstruction efforts. Unfortunately, however, the living conscience of enlightened peoples of the world have not yet raised a voice against all the injustices and oppressions wreaked upon us, although they claim to be upholders of democracy.

The Muslim women of Iran have prospered notwithstanding these problems and believe in their ability to rise above their difficulties. On the path of progress, onward they march and will not allow the West and countries opposed to the country come in the way. *(Concluded)*

Colombian Tree-Planting One for The Record Books

BOGOTA — More than 10,000 trees were planted in a single minute on a hill overlooking Colombia's southwest city of Cali in a ceremony that should win a place in the record books.

Bogota's El Espectador newspaper said a total of 10,720 trees were planted on the hill, previously adorned with just three austere crosses, during Sunday's ceremony organized by a local ecological group. Holes were dug in advance of the ceremony, allowing the trees to be planted simultaneously in the record-breaking minute, the daily said. (Reuter)

Russian Firm Wins Order to Fly Elephants to Africa

MOSCOW — A Russian airline has won an order to export elephants to Uganda later this year, a company official said.

Marina Samokhvalova, cargo manager of Transcharter, said the firm had been chosen by British-based Aircraft Management Services to transport four to six elephants from St Petersburg Zoo to the Ugandan capital Kampala.

She said the elephants would be used in the making of a BBC documentary film.

Samokhvalova did not say why the British Broadcasting Corporation had decided to send elephants from Russia to an African country. (Reuter)

UN to Get Refugees Out of Zaire

BIARO, Zaire — UN workers struggling to airlift Rwandan refugees out of Zaire have managed to get 150 children out of squalid camps, but Zairian rebels were barring further evacuations.

The rebels Tuesday also forced 1,500 refugees south at gunpoint, away from the camp and the UN help available there. A Rwandan woman clutching a baby stumbled and plunged into the mud as a rebel soldier yelled at her to move on.

UN workers said they feared for the safety of those refugees, and despaired of returning any of the approximately 80,000 refugees in rebel-held territory to their homeland.

"We're getting increasingly frustrated by the constant changes imposed on us by the local (rebel) authorities," said Pam O'Toole, a spokeswoman for the UN agency in Geneva. "Each day we start with a plan to help the refugees, and by the end of the day it is in tatters."

U.S. envoy Bill Richardson, in Zaire to urge immediate peace talks between rebel leader Laurent Kabila and President Mobutu Sese Seko, said he had urged the rebels not to interfere with aid workers' attempts to send the Rwandans home.

Richardson said Kabila assured him that any rebel soldier involved in human rights violations would be punished and that he would be flexible on a 60-day deadline he set Sunday for all the Rwandans to be out of Zaire.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees had called the deadline unrealistic, because of the large number of refugees and because so many of them are ill from malnutrition and diseases such as cholera and malaria. (AFP)

Naval Ship Explodes Off Normandy Coast

CHERBOURG, France — A French naval barge exploded and sank off the Normandy coast on Wednesday, killing at least one person and injuring five, authorities said.

The 43-meter (140-foot) barge was near the coastal town of La Hague when the explosion occurred, the maritime prefecture said.

The blast killed one person, gravely injured five others and left four missing, said a French military spokesman on customary anonymity.

The barge, which can carry up to 30 people, is used for port maintenance, said a spokesman for the prefecture. Earlier reports said the barge had 30 aboard.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the blast. (AP)

Death Toll in China Train Crash Rises to 65

BEIJING — The death toll in the train collision in central-south China's Hunan Province has risen to 65, with 290 injured, a local government official said Wednesday.

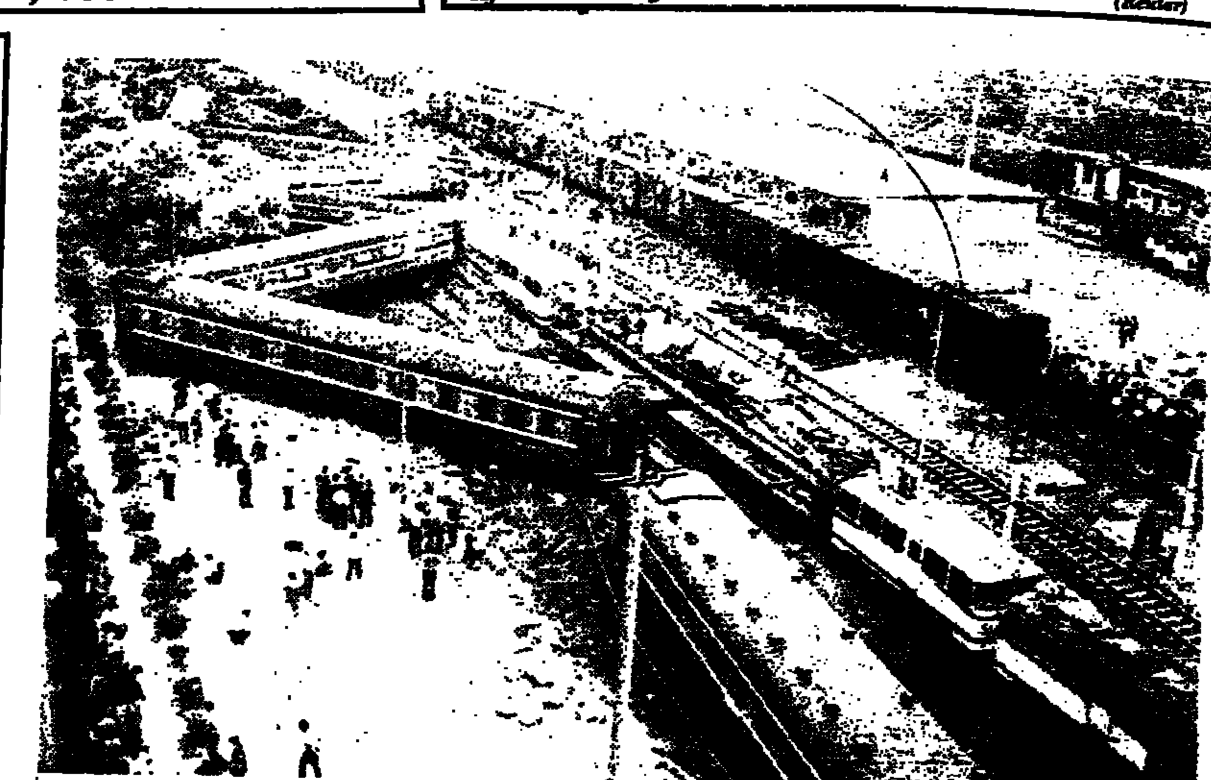
Two passenger trains collided Tuesday morning at Rongjiawan station in the district of Yueyang, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of the provincial capital, Changsha.

"The latest figure we have is for 65 dead, although some of the injured are in a critical condition and may not survive," the official from the Yeuyang municipal government information office said by telephone.

The number of dead was confirmed by a journalist from the Yueyang Evening News.

The government official said all trapped passengers had been rescued from the wreckage of the train.

Altogether, 290 passengers had been injured, of whom 90 were labelled as being in a "serious" condition, he added. (AFP)



RONGJIAWAN, China (April 29): Rescue workers attend to the wreckage of two passenger trains which collided in south-central China's Hunan Province, killing at least 65 people and injuring 290 others, at the Rongjiawan station on the Beijing-Guangzhou railway line. Rescue work was continuing April 30. (AFP PHOTO)

Sri Lanka Goes on Red Alert ahead of May Day

COLOMBO — Security has been tightened in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo ahead of May Day rallies organized by dozens of political parties and trade unions, officials said Wednesday.

Parking restrictions will be in place in several key roads here to prevent car bomb attacks against those taking part in the International Labor Day celebrations, a police spokesman said.

"There will be no restriction on rallies this time but there will be tight security," the spokesman said adding that hundreds of police will be drawn from outside the city to strengthen their staff in Colombo.

Last year, police used batons and tear gas to break up a leftist demonstration while other parties organized low key ceremonies amid fears of Tamil Tiger bomb attacks.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga People's Alliance is due to hold its rally in Colombo while the main opposition United National Party (UNP) said they were having their May Day meeting in the central region of the country.

During a similar May Day rally here four years ago, a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber assassinated the then President Ranasinghe Premadasa. (AFP)

Turkey, Greece Agree to Review Territorial Disputes

LUXEMBOURG — Turkey and Greece agreed to appoint a panel to suggest ways of settling their territorial disputes, a step toward unlocking $432.8 million in aid seen as a key to having Turkey join the European Union.

After a meeting Tuesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, the EU foreign ministers announced that the panel would make its recommendations by mid-June.

Greece has refused to lift its veto of the EU aid package for Turkey because of disputes over the ownership of Aegean Sea islands and the future of Cyprus.

The aid accompanies an EU-Turkey customs union accord that took effect Jan.1, 1996. The money is to help Turkish businesses adjust to more open trade with the EU.

The Netherlands, which now holds the rotating EU presidency, has been trying to get Greece and Turkey to sort out their problems.

Greece's partners have long tolerated Athens' hard-line stance toward Turkey. But Greek-Turkish relations are weighing increasingly heavy on the EU agenda with union membership for divided Cyprus approaching fast and Turkey itself asking about membership. (AP)

Thousands of New Refugees Flee Fighting in Western Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fighting in western Afghanistan has sent thousands of refugees to a camp run by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the group said in a statement Wednesday.

The Red Cross has registered more than 2,000 new families — roughly 12,000 people — at the Shaidai camp in Herat City, 600 kilometers (360 miles) west of Kabul.

The refugees appear to have fled fighting between the Taleban and northern-based opposition forces in Morghab Valley in western Bagdhis province, said Thomas Gurtner, a Red Cross official in neighboring Pakistan.

The new arrivals mean there are now more than 39,000 refugees in Herat, according to Red Cross figures.

"We've seen a steady stream of arrivals since February that has peaked in the last couple of weeks," he said.

The Taleban army, which controls two-thirds of the war-torn country, is battling a coalition led by Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum and ousted military chief Ahmed Shah Massood on at least three fronts. (AP)



THE HAGUE, Netherlands (April 29): Bosnia Croat Zlatko Aleksovski (L) enters the courtroom of the International War Crime Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. At right an unidentified UN guard, Aleksovski, extradited to The Hague to stand trial, said Tuesday he would plead not guilty to the charges against him. The former officer in the Bosnian Croat militia (HVO) is charged with involvement in the massacre of dozens of Muslims in the central Bosnian village of Ashmici during Muslim-Croat fighting in 1993. (AFP PHOTO)

Indian Parliament Focuses on Corruption

NEW DELHI, India — Opposition politicians focused on a corruption scandal hanging over the governing coalition Wednesday as a Parliament session meant to address the budget opened in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral was likely to face repeated questions about his party boss's alleged involvement in a scheme to defraud a state treasury during his first full session of Parliament, expected to last two weeks.

The scandal was already straining Gujral's center-left Janata Dal, which has 45 of the 178 seats held by the governing United Front's partners in the 545-member Lower House of Parliament.

Newspapers reported Wednesday that Janata Dal president Laloo Prasad Yadav, who has denied wrongdoing, was resisting calls from within the party for his resignation. Gujral reportedly agreed to put off any decision until federal police followed through on a weekend announcement that they would charge Yadav with corruption.

Gujral, with Yadav's crucial backing, assumed office just last week after a 21-day squabble for leadership.

"It appears if we do not take steps to end corruption in our political system, then the very base of our democracy will come under serious threat," Atal Behari Vajpayee, head of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, said on the floor of the Lower House of Parliament.

Lawmaker Nitish Kumar, whose Samata Party is a BJP ally, called on Yadav to step down as chief minister of Bihar state. (AFP)

Ingushetia's Deputy Interior Minister Assasinated

MOSCOW — Unidentified gunmen killed the deputy interior minister of Ingushetia, a Russian republic in the north Caucasus, during an apparently planned rescue Wednesday of a hardened criminal, news agencies reported.

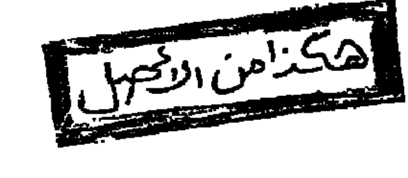
Khamzat Dzeitov and his driver were killed by automatic rifle fire as they drove Khasan Khadzhiyev, described as head of a band specializing in kidnappings and contract killings, to a prison in the town of Malgobek, Interfax said.

The attack took place at 2:30 a.m. (2230 GMT), ITAR-TASS said.

"This bandit was being hunted and during a search of his relatives' house police found a store of weapons and ammunition," Ingush Vice President Boris Agapov told Interfax.

Last week another deputy interior minister was shot in Ingushetia, but authorities said the two killings were not connected. (AFP)



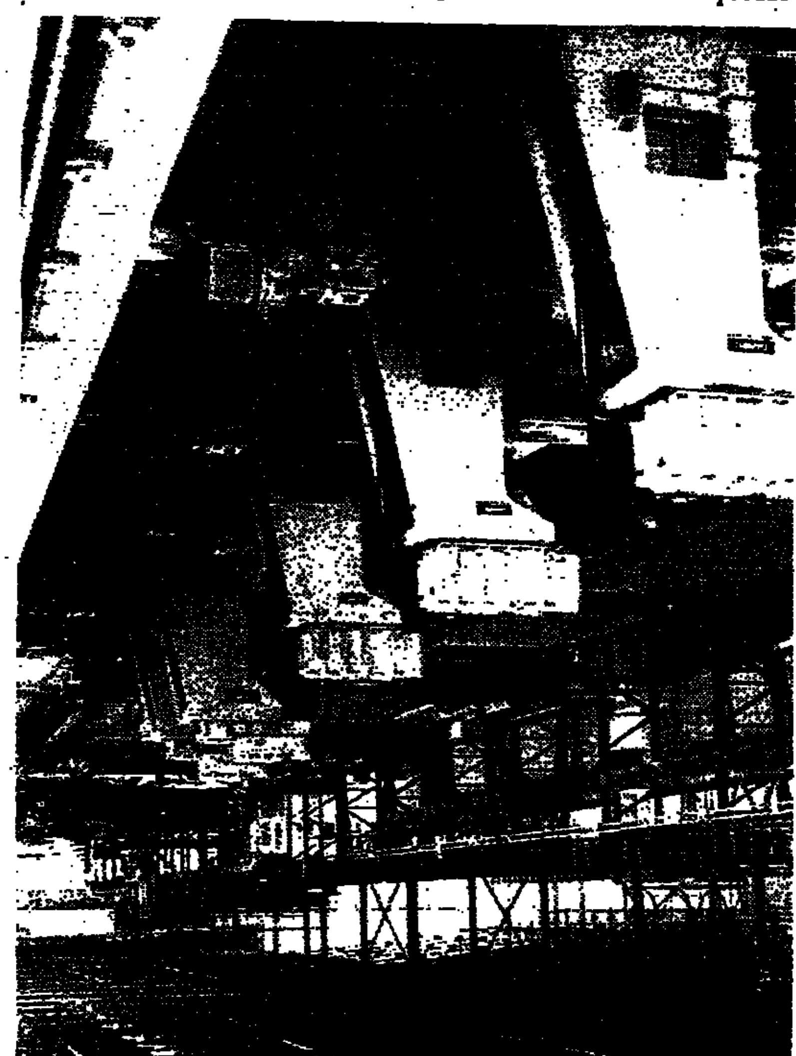


هكذا من الأصل

Yazd Steel Alloy Complex to Be Inaugurated Next Month

By A. A. Pahlevan

Yazd (Yazd Province) — The first phase of Yazd Steel Alloy Complex will be operational soon, as 85 percent of the project has been completed at this stage and the rest of the plant will be inaugurated next year.



One of the leading industrial plans in Yazd Province since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, this project is situated some 25 kilometers northwest of Yazd.

The plant is to produce more than 800 varieties of steel alloy products, with the annual production capacity of 140,000 tons, which could be further increased within the next few years.

Managing Director of the complex, Masoud Fanian, said in a press conference that, in order to fulfil the needs of domestic industries for all kinds of steel alloys, 85 percent of machinery equipment has been installed.

At the outset, the annual production capacity will be 140,000 tons; the figure will further increase to 200,000 tons subsequently.

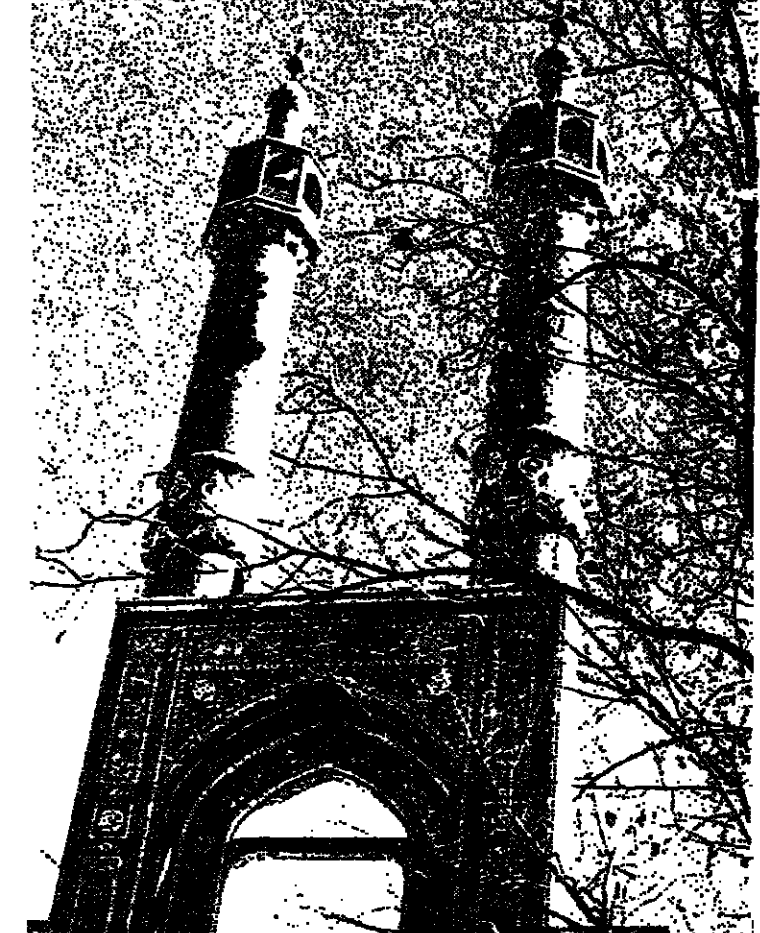
Fifty-seven percent of total production will be utilized in car manufacturing industries, and the remainder in other industries. Ninety percent of the raw material, including spongy iron, scrapped iron and ferro-alloys will be supplied domestically, according to Fanian.

After the inauguration of this project 1,400 people will be employed in this sector, thus saving $250 million annually in hard currency.

The budget earmarked for the installation of the industrial complex is $500 million financed by Italy, in addition to 300 billion rials allocated by Iranian banking system.

The managing director of Yazd Steel Alloy Company said that for the preservation of the environment some 450 acres have been projected for creating greenery for the complex. Moreover, $20 million have been allocated for the purchase of required equipment and facilities in order to control the pollution.

Fanian said this infrastructure industry can play a vital role in supplying more than 800 various steel-made tools to the market. He also pointed out that the implementation of this project has been the biggest industrial investment in Yazd Province since the culmination of Islamic Revolution in 1979.



This industrial complex has the technology not only capable of producing the major domestic requirements for steel alloy products, but foreign market demands could be met as well.

This industrial complex has the technology not only capable of producing the major domestic requirements for steel alloy products, but foreign market demands could be met as well, Fanian disclosed.

Asked if foreign firms have fulfilled their commitments, Fanian said they have all carried out their tasks according to the agreements.

He said, "At the beginning we were confronted with many problems such as lack of electricity, shortage of water, access to railway and education of personnel. But all the obstacles have been removed over time."

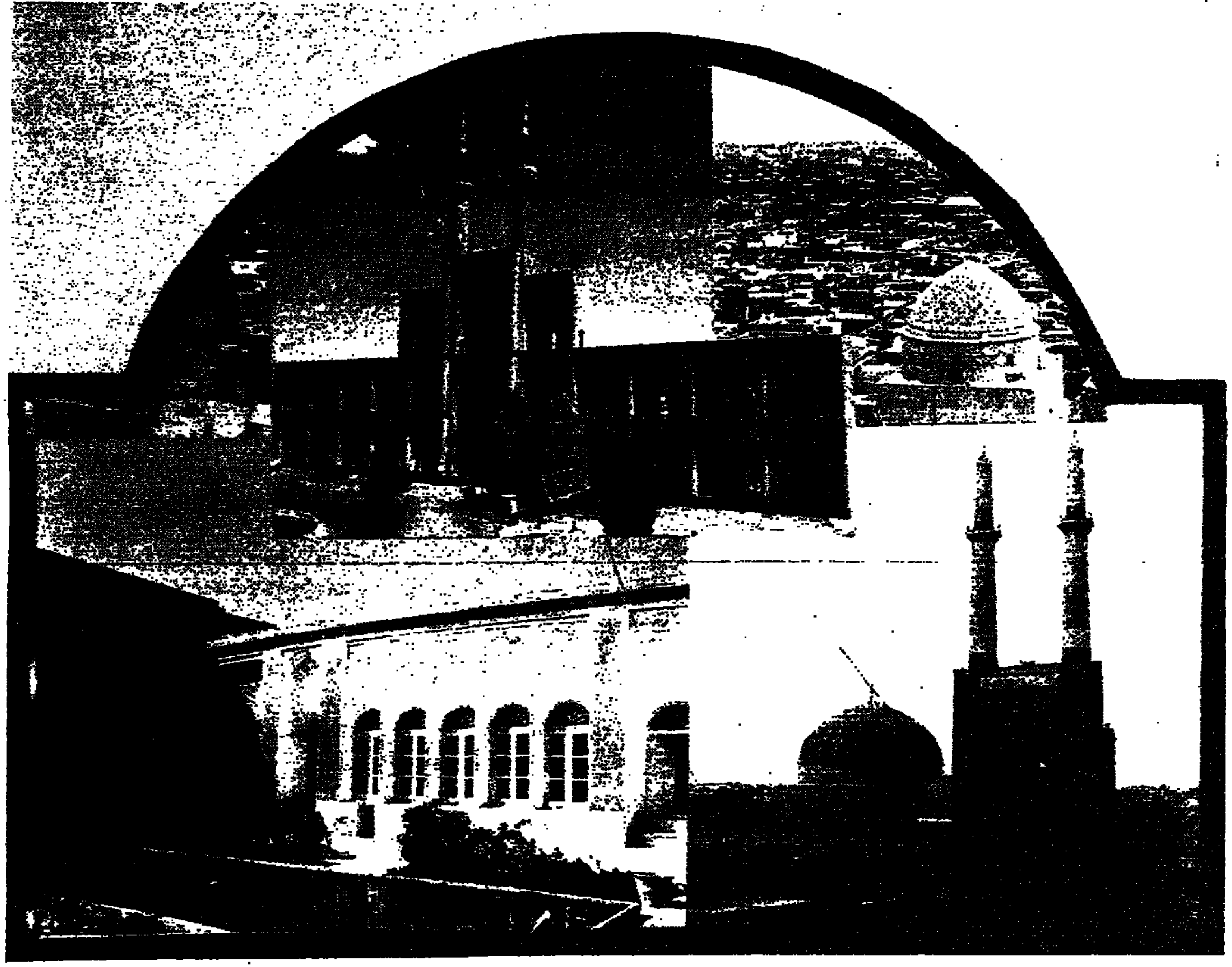
The total investment, which is more than $500,000, indicates the importance of a project of this kind in the Middle East. South Korea is the only other country in Asia to have signed an agreement to acquire the same technology, Fanian said.

According to Fanian, the project is supposed to be implemented fully within the next two years; even though some subdivisions will start operation sooner.

"One of the major problems we were facing during the initial stages of plant manufacturing was training of skilled personnel. ", he said.

The shareholders of Yazd Steel Alloy Complex are National Iranian Steel Company (NISC), with a 51 percent share, and Bank Saderat, with a 49 percent share respectively.

Different types of steel alloy products to be produced in this plant include: carbon steel, cold work tool steel, hot work tool steel, spring steel, case hardening steel, free cutting steel, saw steel, heat tractable steel, heat resistant steel, plastic mould steel, high temperature steel, stainless nickle-chrome steel, high speed tool steel, valve steel, bearing steel and creep resistant steel.



The ancient city of Yazd is situated some 700 kilometers south of Tehran. Yazd has numerous cultural and historical monuments some as old as history. The architectural setup of the entire city is predominantly based on Iranian traditional architecture.

Europe's Royals to Hold Society Birthday Party of the Year

OSLO — What promises to be the society event of the year will take place in Trondheim in June, when royals from all over Europe meet to celebrate the 60th birthdays of Norwegian King Harald and Queen Sonja.

The royal palace released the guest list on Tuesday, and 55 royal guests have accepted the invitation. Some will be present only during the festivities in Trondheim, others will accompany the Norwegian royal couple on board the royal yacht Norge on a sea voyage along the coast up to the Lofoten Islands.

King Harald turned 60 in February, while Queen Sonja's 60th birthday is in July. But the celebrations will start in Trondheim on June 20-21, in the ancient city that celebrates its millennium this year.

The Norwegian royal yacht will be accompanied by the Danish royal yacht Dannebrog and Norwegian naval vessels.

Some royal guests will leave the voyage up in the Lofoten Islands, while others will go back with the yachts as far south as Bergen.

In addition to the many foreign guests, all related to the Norwegian king, family and friends from Norway will join other prominent guests from Europe.

Denmark will be represented by Queen Margrethe, her husband Prince Henrik, the heir to the Danish throne, Crown Prince Frederik, his brother Prince Joachim, his wife Princess Alexandria and other members of the Danish royal family.

King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia will head the Swedish delegation together with Crown Princess Victoria and other members of the Swedish royal family, all closely related to King Harald.

Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and his two brothers, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, will represent the British royal family. Ex-King Konstantin of Greece and his Queen Anne and their children, all living in England, will also be in Trondheim for the celebrations.

Archduke Jean and Archduchesse Josephine-Charlotte and their children will represent Luxembourg, while the Dutch Queen Beatrix, Prince Claus and Crown Prince Willem Alexander are coming from the Netherlands.

Belgian King Albert and Queen Paola who are currently on a state visit to Norway will return for the Trondheim celebrations along with Prince Laurent. (AFP)

U.S. Passenger Railroad System on Brink of Bankruptcy



"I can't imagine the United States, the sole superpower, being without a rail system."

WASHINGTON — Burdened by debt and a network that is but a skeleton of its former self, the U.S. passenger railroad system is on the brink of bankruptcy.

"This is it — make or break time," Senator Daniel Moynihan told the Senate Finance Committee recently, as U.S. lawmakers began a tough fight in favor of a plan to rescue the system, which is called Amtrak.

"In 18 to 20 months, it could be the end," Amtrak spokesman Clifford Black told AFP, noting that for the first time that the rail system's perilous financial situation has been confirmed by an independent third party, the U.S. General Accounting Office.

"I can't imagine the United States, the sole superpower, being without a rail system," Republican Senator William Roth said.

The system projects a $762-million deficit this year, while the Accounting Office says "the loss could be even greater."

While Amtrak serves 44 of the continental 48 states, many of those states get skimpy service. The rail network is concentrated on the East Coast, where the most popular trains link Boston to New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Yet even in Washington, world, all of which rely on some level of federal support," Amtrak president Thomas Downs told lawmakers.

"Amtrak covers more of its operating costs — an estimated 84 percent — than any other passenger railroad in the world, while receiving less than three percent of all transportation spending," he added.

Legislation which Roth and others are pushing to save Amtrak from bankruptcy, would dedicate 1/2 cent of the country's 4.3 cent a gallon gasoline tax to a railroad trust fund.

Budget constraints and highway construction lobbyists may doom the proposal, however.

Currently, Downs said, the United States spends $20 billion on highways but less than $450 million on capital improvements for Amtrak.

"Highways and automobiles did not become the predominant mode of travel in the United States by luck," said Brent Blackwelder, president of the environmentalist group Friends of the Earth.

"They have been enormously

Money has not been Amtrak's only problem. Politicians have meddled with the train system, most recently barring it from suspending money-losing routes popular among constituents.

passenger train service is only a glimmer of what it once was, before highways and air routes became the preferred modes of travel. While trains still run in and out of Union Station, most of its cavernous space has given way to a shopping mall.

Congress has been reluctant to give Amtrak heavy subsidies. At the same time, however, many politicians do not want to lose trains that go through their local districts — even if they are running on money-losing routes.

According to a 1994 study, the U.S. government subsidizes Amtrak to a tune of $1.64 per capita. That compares to a whopping $228.29 per capita in Switzerland, $51.48 in France, $2.07 in Thailand and $3.24 per capita in Mexico.

The study showed that even Bolivia subsidized its rail system more heavily than the United States.

"We are held to a higher standard than any other passenger rail system in the subsidized through concerted national and state spending."

The rail network is still awaiting its first high-speed line, now scheduled for late 1999 between Boston and Washington.

Money has not been Amtrak's only problem. Politicians have meddled with the train system, most recently barring it from suspending money-losing routes popular among constituents.

"We want Amtrak to be strong and to serve more than the original 13 colonies," Senator Ron Wyden said, urging that no cutbacks be made to a money-losing route Amtrak wants to cancel in his home state of Oregon.

Last fall, Congress gave Amtrak the money to keep the routes it wanted to cancel, but the help was not sufficient.

Amtrak had hoped to take the trains from those routes and place them on more popular routes where trains are often full. (AFP)

Escaped Mental Patient Gets Into Buckingham Palace

LONDON — Evading security, an escaped mental patient got into the grounds of Buckingham Palace on Monday, police reported.

Scotland Yard said in brief a statement that he was in the grounds of Queen Elizabeth II's London home for "a few minutes before he was escorted from the premises and later arrested." The incident happened at around 7.30 a.m. (0630 GMT).

It said the intruder did not get into the palace building itself. The queen and her husband Prince Philip were away, staying at Windsor Castle 20 miles (30 kilometers) west of London.

Newspaper reports on Tuesday gave somewhat different accounts. The *Times of London* said the intruder left the palace grounds, got into a cab and told the driver what he had done and it was only when the driver contacted police that the intruder was arrested.

The London tabloid *The Sun* said the intruder was not spotted by palace guards and that none of the palace alarm systems went off.

The Sun said the shaven-headed man left the palace grounds by the front gates, walking past police officers on guard there who assumed he had been in the grounds legitimately and wished him a polite "good morning."

The Scotland Yard statement did not identify the intruder but *The Sun* said he was Alastair Coe.

Commander Peter Clarke, head of Scotland Yard's Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Squad, has ordered an investigation to find out how the 27-year-old man managed to get into the palace grounds. The palace is guarded by high walls, closed circuit television and other electronic surveillance equipment.

The intruder was taken back to the mental hospital unit at St. Leonard's-on-Sea 55 miles (85 kilometers) southeast of central London from which he escaped on Wednesday last week. Scotland Yard said he would not be charged.

The incident is the latest in a line of palace intrusions.

In 1982, Michael Fagan twice slipped into the palace. On the second occasion, he spent 10 minutes sitting on the queen's bed holding a broken ashtray while he talked with her before palace guards arrived. He was sent for mental treatment.

In 1993, a group of lesbian anti-nuclear demonstrators scaled the palace walls with ladders and sat on the palace lawn singing before police arrested them.

In 1994, a half-naked American paraglider, James Miller, landed on the palace roof as a stunt, stripped off his pants and revealed that he was painted green from the waist down.

In 1995, a man deliberately rammed the palace gates in his car, causing significant damage. (AP)

'PC Theater' Unveiled by Compaq, Thomson Electronics

NEW YORK — Most Americans don't associate living rooms with floppy disks and hard drives. But that hasn't stopped leading makers of computers and TVs from merging the pastimes in new machines.

Compaq Computer Corp. and Thomson Consumer Electronics Co. recently unveiled a combination "PC theater" that looks like a large-screen TV with a big difference.

In addition to a 36-inch (91-cm) monitor with Thomson's RCA brand, it includes a separate Compaq box that doubles as a computer, enabling people to browse the Internet, play video games and send electronic mail.

At $5,000, the product is not for everyone. But with the cost comparable to other "home theater" systems featuring big screens and big sounds, Compaq hopes to get its brand out in front of the next wave of all-in-one digital technology.

By the year 2006, consumers will have to replace or convert their existing analog TV sets to receive signals from broadcasters sending cinema-quality digital television. Since digital TVs can operate as computers, PC makers see the shift as an opportunity to spread their wares into the living room.

Compaq and RCA "are setting the stage, creating some brand identification for themselves, making a statement. They are testing the waters," said Richard Zwetchkenbaum, an industry analyst with International Data Corp.

And they are not alone.

International Business Machines Corp. is working on its own version. Instead of full-fledged computers in each room, IBM is developing a home system built around a central computer that feeds TV, Internet access and computer functions to monitors scattered throughout a house. IBM expects to announce a product by the end of the year, people close to the Armonk, New York company said. IBM officials declined to comment.

Princeton graphic systems, based in Santa Ana, California is slowly rolling out its Arcadia home monitor, starting at $800, which plugs directly into an existing PC for both computer and TV viewing.

Japan's Mitsubishi Electric Corp. is working on a television that builds in a device that allows people to choose between watching TV or cruising the Internet. But it doesn't include computer capabilities. This is a next step from WebTV, a set-top Internet gizmo that enables users to retrieve electronic mail and surf the Web on their current TV sets using a remote-control device.

This type of approach could become especially popular, Zwetchkenbaum believes. He expects "millions" of TVs with built-in Internet access to be shipped by the year 2000.

But just how badly do people want to expand their living room activities?

Sales of WebTV thus far have fallen short of expectations. And while Gateway 2000 Inc. was the first to sell a combined television and PC, sales of its year-old Destination PC — starting at $3,000 with a 31-inch monitor — number only in the thousands each month, the company says.

"We know there's tremendous potential out there," Gateway chief executive Ted Waitt said in a phone interview. But "we probably haven't done as good a job of getting the word out."

The Compaq-Thomson product takes the concept to a new level. Instead of marketing PC Theater as a unit, Compaq and RCA will sell the components separately — similar to how people can add a CD player to their stereo system.

RCA and Compaq are moving slowly. They initially will sell the product in six areas — Dallas-Fort Worth, Denver, Houston, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. (AP)

Java Rhinoceros Population Falls

JAKARTA — Only 58 Javanese rhinoceros remain in the their last Indonesian habitat on the western tip of west Java a 1997 survey has revealed, it was reported Wednesday.

The five-day census, conducted by a team from the Nature's Protection Office this month, found the tracks of 58 individual Javanese rhinoceros (rhinoceros sondaicus) in the Ujung Kulon National Park, the Antara news agency said.

The census, financed by the government, also collected data on the condition of the animals' habitat, its food and water source and population distribution.

Records showed that a similar census in 1991 found there were about 60 rhinoceros left in Ujung Kulon. The rhinoceros species can only be found in Ujung Kulon and in the Cat Log Nature Reserve in Vietnam. (AFP)





The Brain

Cut away the face, the skull, the dura: inside is the essence of human personality.

The matter that makes up the mind is 85 percent water. Out of the skull, it slumps like a blob of Jell-O. Aristotle thought the brain's function was that of a radiator to cool the blood. It does receive 20 percent of the body's blood supply, but the brain can cool the blood solely through rational thought.

Only the human brain may have the capacity to understand itself—and it doesn't quite yet. Given its compact size (about three pounds), efficient power consumption (equivalent to a 20-watt lightbulb) and massive storage capacity (100 trillion bits of information), it can work better than any computer. A fully formed human brain contains 100 billion neurons, or nerve cells, as opposed to the lowly worm's 23. The number of neurons, however, is not as important for intelligence as the connections between them. These connections begin to form in the last trimester before birth and continue to create a network until the age of two. They communicate via neurotransmitters, or chemical messengers. When one neuron fires off a message, it is received in one of thousands of receptor sites in another neuron, which stops it or sends it on. When too many are passed on, communication chaos results, often in a seizure. Researchers are now developing drugs that mimic or block neurotransmitters, including a new medication for epilepsy and drugs for Alzheimer's disease that conserve the brain's supply of the memory messenger, acetylcholine.

Bigger is not always better. The brain has a far greater capacity than humans can use. We can function with half a brain lost to surgery or stroke: The remaining half adapts to new uses.

The right and left hemispheres of the brain are connected by a thick band of nerve fibers, the corpus callosum. After one recent operation to correct severe seizures by severing the connection, researchers discovered that the area of the brain that controls speaking, a skill developed 100,000 years ago, can be in one hemisphere, while the area monitoring the more recent task of writing (10,000 years old) is in another. Brains can also reformat themselves late in life for specific tasks. Most people, for instance, process letters and numbers in separate areas of the brain. But in the brains of postal workers in Canada, which has zip codes that combine letters and numbers, the two areas of cognition are closer together.

(Courtesy Life Magazine)

THOUGHT

The wheel was invented so we could move faster. credit was invented so we would have to.

Cullen Hightower

PRAYER

Noon 13:01
Evening 20:12
Dawn (tomorrow) 04:28
Sunrise (tomorrow) 06:12

Gene Defect May Redirect Alzheimer's Research

WASHINGTON — A defect in the energy-producing machinery of a cell may be linked to alzheimer's disease, a finding that could lead to understanding and treating the debilitating dementia, scientists said this week.

In Tuesday's edition of the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers reported that they discovered a genetic effect in the part of the cell called the mitochondria. It affects how the brain cells break down glucose, or sugar, and turn it into energy.

The abnormality may generate too many free radicals, which can kill brain cells, according to the team of researchers from the San Diego-based Mitokor company, the University of Virginia, Harvard, and the University of California at San Diego. *(Reuter)*



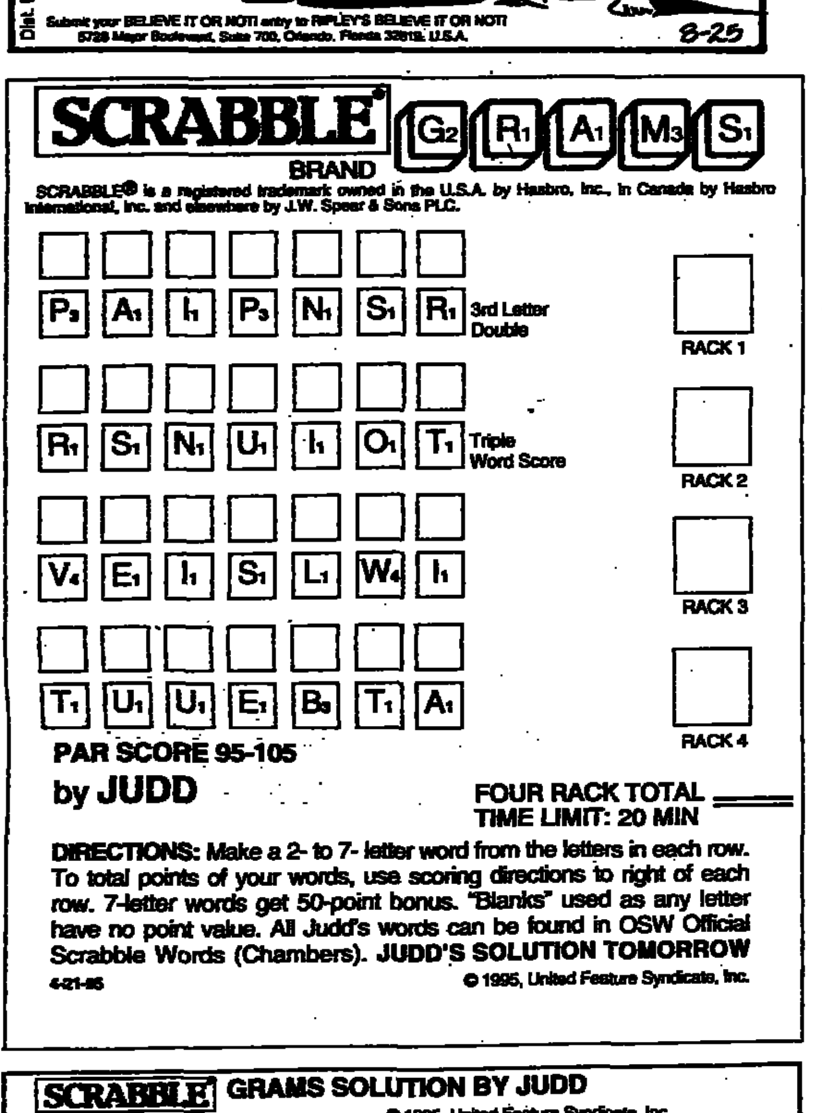
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by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

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3-14 JUD HURD © 1992 UFS, Inc.

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R_1	S_1	N_1	U_1	I_1	O_1	T_1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
V_4	E_1	I_1	S_1	L_1	W_4	I_1		RACK 3
T_1	U_1	U_1	E_1	B_3	T_1	A_1		RACK 4

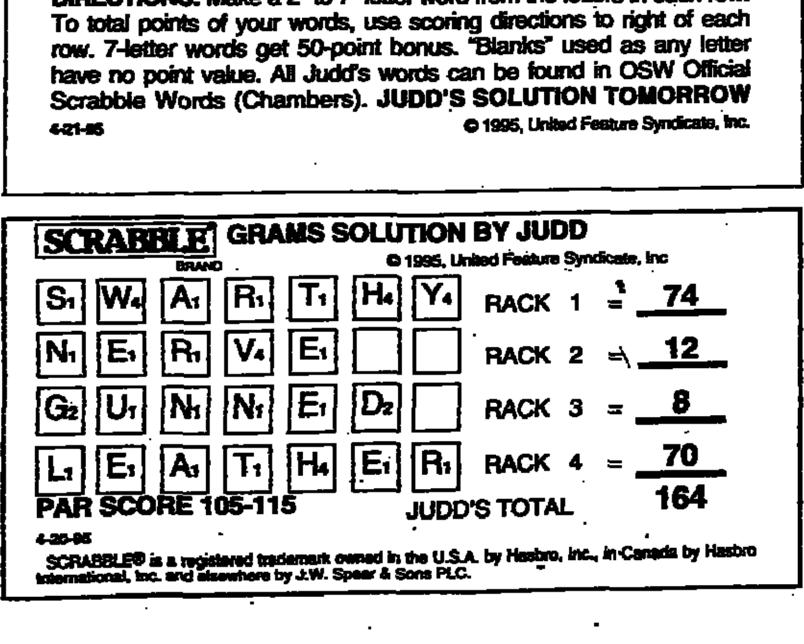
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by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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N_1	E_1	R_1	V_4	E_1			RACK 2 =	12
G_2	U_1	N_1	N_1	E_1	D_2		RACK 3 =	8
L_1	E_1	A_1	T_1	H_4	E_1	R_1	RACK 4 =	70
							JUDD'S TOTAL	164

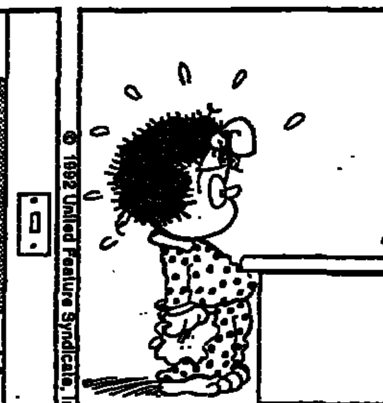
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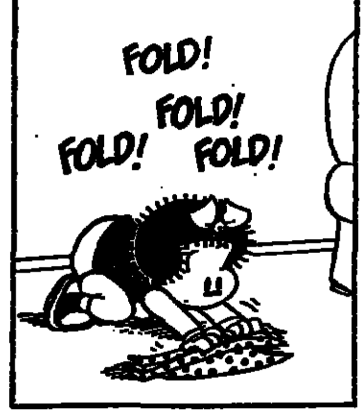
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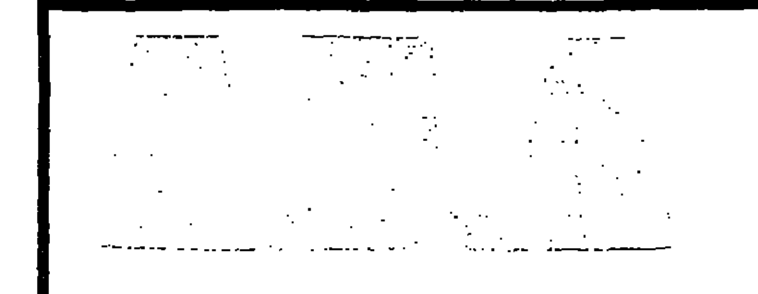






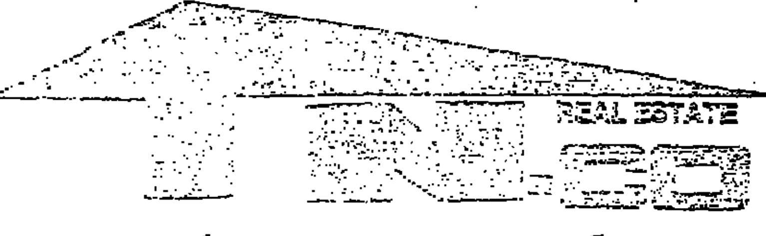






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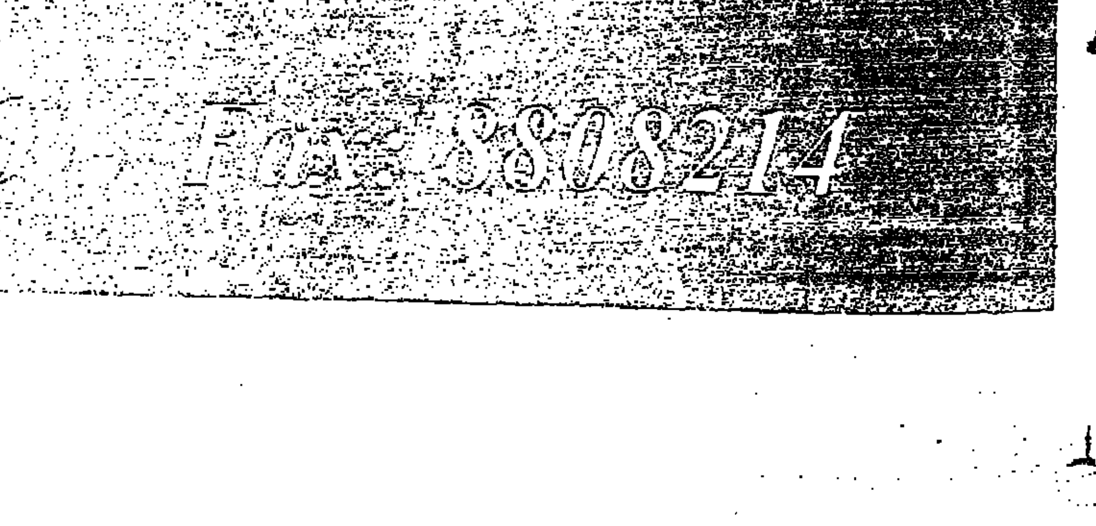
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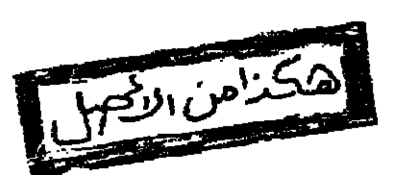
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هكذا من الأصل

Zaire: A Disinformation Campaign?

Tehran Times Service

By Gwynne Dyer



KISANGANI, Zaire (April 27): Some 33 Rwandan refugees aboard a UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Regugees) plane at the airport in Kisangani on their way to be repatriated to Rwanda. It was the first time that the UNHCR was authorized by rebels loyal to Zairean rebel leader Kabila to repatriate refugees from Kisangani to Kigali. UN aid agency officials, oveflying eastern Zaire, said April 27 they had spotted several hundred people, probably Rwandan Hutu refugees, gathered south of Kisangani.

(AFP PHOTO)

LONDON — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan says that the rebel treatment of Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire is "slow extermination". As Laurent Kabila and his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) move closer to complete control over Africa's third-largest country, the allegations of massacre multiply.

The Paris-based international charity Doctors Without Frontiers accused the ADFL two weeks ago of waging a "terror policy" against Hutu refugees. By last Friday the World Food Agency in Geneva was making comparisons to Hitler's Germany, saying that "The expression 'Final Solution' is not exaggerated."

I beg your pardon? The original 'final solution' was the extermination of 6 million Jews in Nazi death camps. In Zaire, the event at issue is the disappearance (flight? massacre? nobody knows) of some 85,000 Hutus from refugee camps around Kisangani in the past week.

With due respect to the World Food Agency, I have to say that the expression 'final solution' is exaggerated. Indeed, I doubt that most of the missing Hutus have been killed at all. And I suspect that this whole panic is an exercise in disinformation.

I am not writing this from Kisangani, and I don't know what happened to the missing Hutus. What I know about the current situation around Kisangani is what I read on the wires, almost all of which comes either from the aid agencies or from American intelligence sources, including satellite photographs.

But the U.S. government is not above 'managing' information in order to shape UN policy and international opinion for its own purposes. The aid agencies have their own fish to fry. And all the rest of us are working from the same scanty, potentially manipulated information. In this case, I just don't believe it.

Why would the ADFL now start killing Hutu refugees (who have become irrelevant to events in Zaire), when it was so disciplined in the past? There is no good answer to that question, whereas there is an obvious answer to the opposite question: Why would other people lie about events in eastern Zaire?

Laurent Kabila, who is about to take over Zaire, used to be a Marxist. In the early 60s, even Che Guevara once showed up to lend him a hand. That was long ago, and Kabila talks differently today, but he is still not Washington's favorite Zairean.

The United States, having backed Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko for 31 years, has now dropped him, but it does not want Kabila to replace him. In the late 90s, there is not longer the option of dropping Western troops into Zaire to defend Mobutu. But there could still be worth trying to discredit Kabila in the court of world opinion, so that he would be forced to make deals with America's other friends in Kinshasa.

If the reports of genocide in eastern Zaire are really 'black propaganda', then why would the aid agencies go along with them? Because they reflexively declare humanitarian emergencies whenever the possibility arises. Usually they are right, but they do it anyway, right or wrong.

Fair enough. If they always waited until they had 100 percent proof of a disaster, many more people would die. It is their job to declare emergencies, ours to decide if they're right. But how right have they been on this issue, in this region, in the recent past?

Cast your mind back six months, to the first ADFL attacks on the camps in eastern Zaire that

(Contd on Pg.14)

DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (DBMS) with dBASE IV

(Part II)

By Ali Shahrbabaki

COMMANDS TO ADD NEW DATA

APPEND

Adds new records to the bottom of database file in use

APPEND BLANK

Adds a new blank record to the bottom of a database file

BROWSE

Allows full-screen, spreadsheet like editing and entering of database file in use.

INSERT

Inserts new data in database at a specified record position.

COMMANDS TO REORGANIZE EXISTING DATA

INDEX

Creates a index (.ndx) from the database file in sue, for maintaining sort orders, maximizing the speed of searches, and defining relationship among multiple database.

SORT

Creates a new sorted database (.dbf) file from the database file currently in use.

COMMANDS TO CHANGE EXISTING DATA

BROWSE



Allows full-screen, spreadsheet like editing and entering of data to the database file in use

CHANGE

Allows editing of all the fields in a single database record

DELETE

Marks records in a database for eventual deletion

EDIT

Same as the CHANGE command.

PACK

Permanently removes records from the database that have been marked for deletion with the DELETE, EDIT, CHANGE OR BROWSE commands

READ

Allows modification or entering of data in database files or memory variables in conjunction with the GET command and custom screen format (.fmt) files

RECALL

Reclaims records that have been marked for deletion

REPLACE

Replaces the data in a database field with a new value

COMMANDS TO DISPLAY DATA

es a row and column position on the screen or printer and displays data at that position

line or box

? prints information starting on a new line

?? prints information at the current cursor or printer position.

DISPLAY

Displays the contents of a database record

LABEL

Prints mailing labels in the format specified by the CREATE LABEL command Displays database records

REPORT

Prints a report with the format specified by the CREATE REPORT command.

VARIABLES

ACCEPT TO

Stores user input in a character memory variables.



CLEAR ALL

Initializes dBase III + to its default startup mode

CLEAR MEMORY

Erases all current memory variables.

DISPLAY MEMORY

Displays all current memory variables.

INPUT

Waits for user entry and stores input in a numeric memory variable.

READ

Allows data to be entered via the @..SAY...GET commands.

RELEASE

Erases memory variables.

RESTORE

Brings memory variables that have been stored on disk in a .mem file back into memory.

SAVE

Saves memory variables in a memory (.mem) file on disk.

STORE

Creates a memory variable and assign a value to it.

WAIT

Waits for the user to press a single key and optionally stores that keypress in a character memory variable.

PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

* Specifies a programmer comment when used as the first character in a line.

&& Specifies a programmer comment to the right of a command line in a program.

CANCEL

Terminates command file processing and returns control to the dot prompt.

CASE

Beings an option within a DO CASE clause.

DO

Runs a command file or procedure.

DO CASE

Begins a block of several mutually exclusive routines.

DO WHILE

Begins a loop in a command file.

ELSE

Used within a IF clause as the alternate path when the IF expression is false.

END CASE

Marks the bottom of a DO CASE clause.

END DO

Marks the bottom of a DO WHILE loop.

END IF

Marks the bottom of an if clause.

END

Text Marks the bottom of a TEXT block.

EXIT

Passes control to outside a DO WHILE loop.

IF

Makes a decision based on a single expression.

LOOP

Passes control to the top of a DO WHILE loop.

NOTE

Marks a programmer comment in a command file (same as *)

ON ERROR

Executes a specified command when an error occurs.

ON ESCAPE

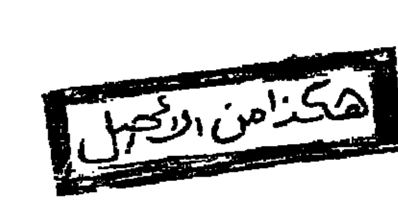
Executes a specified command when Esc key is pressed (SET ESCAPE ON parameter must be set)

(To be cont'd)

Frankly Fenton, when I named you Manager of excess inventory, this isn't what I had in mind.







Iranian Press: A Partner in National Development

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The press is one of the products of the Industrial Revolution which began in England in the late 18th century. Its development, since the 17th century, has been alongside that of Western civilizations and, particularly from the second half of the 19th century, it has been the indicator of changes brought about by the great revolution. The popularity of the press, at least in Western countries, among all strata of people has grown tremendously. It has come to be a kind of habit or social behavior to consult the press for all kinds of information.

In today's world, the percentage of people reading newspapers and magazines in a particular country is a good indicator of the extent of development of that country.

The first printed material in Iran was published in 1253 AH (1874 A.D.) by one of the educated persons who first arrived from the West. The material was published upon the government's recommendation. Although the press then was a foreign imitation, it played a vital role in changing Iranian society with its opposition to the ESTE'MARI agreement of Rezhi, the birth of the Tobacco Movement and the constitutional uprising.

Many years have since passed. The questions often asked now are: Where does the press stand now in Iranian society? What is the stance of the people and responsible authorities with regard to its functions? What is the average length of time spent by a person reading and pondering on newspaper or magazines stories



in a day? Can the average Iranian meet his daily information requirements from the mass of newspapers, weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies currently being published?

According to the Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, the press as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned is not a luxury, but rather a basic need. "The national system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to dictatorial and capitalist systems. In this kind of system knowledge and awareness are as essential as the air we breathe.

People in an Islamic system should have the necessary knowledge and be fully aware of what is going on around them. Analysts should render effective analyses. Considering there are different tastes and methods of doing things, the duty of a healthy press is inescapable," the Ayatollah said.

In the present report, spurred by ongoing Fourth Press Festival, the views of certain people and officials on the role and functions of the press are being presented.

Role of the Press in National Life

Imam Khomeini has beautifully stated the role of the press in the life of the people thus: "The press should be the reflection of the people's will and desires. It should expose issues which are demanded by the people."

The words of the Imam clearly imply that the press ought to be an honest spokesman of the nation, that is, a means through which people can communicate with politicians.

Furthermore, unlike the press of other countries, the press in this country enjoys prestige. The results of an opinion poll reveal that readers of newspapers in this country believe that the press is meeting its social responsibility, and that it is fulfilling its mission of revealing the truth and the realities in society by making people aware and informed of the happenings in their environment. In achieving its goal, the press caters to the people's preference for critical, homogeneous, and descriptive methods of journalism, the poll further revealed.

Majid Eghbali, an economics student, asked to comment on the function of the press, said that the press should have a cultural objective and should provide the people with reliable information.

"A press which does not have any information to provide and exchange with people has no standing among them," he said.

Eqbali further told the *Tehran Times* that journalists should seriously convey the message of the people and their problems without considering their (personal) interests.

"Hardships resulting from bad decisions of (government) authorities should be exposed by journalists. All these should be done without private motive and in a healthy atmosphere," he said.

He said he spends an average of 3 hours a day reading newspapers with a view to obtaining information on current events. He observes that Iranian journalists hardly write analyses and commentaries on published news stories.

"They just quote the news," he said, and opined that journalists should analyze events and publish leading and objective commentaries.

Alireza Mohammadi Semnani believes that "in the age of communications...(the press is) an effective link between people and the authorities...the center of unbiased information on different political, economic, cultural and sports issues."

He said that because information is vital in today's world, the more information a person gets the more successful he



will be.

"The press has evolved into a powerful medium for presenting new and vital information and, compared with yesteryears, has become highly realistic in presenting such information," Semnani stressed, adding that computerized technology has greatly boosted its development.

Asked how much time he devotes to reading newspapers, he said he spends an average of one hour per day.

Other readers believe that the mass media has a responsibility towards them. They feel newspapers should have wider circulation and coverage of news. In their opinion, newspapers are responsible for shaping ethical, political, social and economic views in the minds of readers through their articles.

Hassan Karbalaee, a reporter, said that journalists should consider God's approval in the kind of news, essays, reports and articles they write or publish. He said no material reward, publicity, compensation or political affiliation should take precedence in deciding the kind of article or story to write or publish.

He went on to say that if the press around the world honestly considers the value of the printed or spoken word, writes honestly and speaks honestly, it will be regarded with respect by all people. Unfortunately, he said, most newspapers follow the policy of deception in their stories.

"Look at the press in the U.S., the UK and other countries to find how unjustly they express the news related to Iran. In most cases they attack Islam and Iran. That is not fair journalism," Karbalaee said.

The Press and National Development

The present indicators of growth and development in the various social, economic and cultural fields are national production, per capita income, rate of population growth, percentage of literacy and energy use. Another indicator of development is the quality of communication channels and the levels reached in the free expression of opinion.

Newspaper readers and newsmakers (journalists and press reporters) believe that the qualitative and quantitative growth of the press and the acquisition of modern facilities and equipment can be important factors of development.

Dr. Mehdi Mohsenian-e Rad, a master of arts in communication, believes that the Iranian press has come a long way since the Islamic Revolution in 1978, citing 400 new publications in the country. Unfortunately, he said, after the imposed Iran-Iraq war press progress went on a downward trend, but was revived in 1992 after the ratification of a press law and the setting up of new movements which spurred social, economic and political development in the country.

He added that it is regrettable if we do not maintain this rate of growth. "In a survey of the people's attitudes toward the press, the percentage of literate persons is an important factor. In recent years we have observed campaigns being waged against illiteracy in Iran, and this has spurred the circulation of newspapers in the country," Mohsenian-e Rad said.

The academic also believes that the percentage of literacy or illiteracy of the people is not the only important factor in the development of the press, adding that nationality or citizenship also counts.

He concluded by saying that the United Nations and UNESCO should, instead of making comparisons between literacy and the percentage of the population who are newspaper readers, should compare the level of literacy with the level of education of members of the press.

"I have reached the conclusion that the more the number of educated people, the more developed the press is. So, in order to promote the level of the press, high levels of education should be stressed," he said.

Mohsenian-e Rad proposes promotion of the skills required in journalism and says it needs an appropriate venue to develop, saying "If journalists possess a high level of education then a suitable ground will be prepared and the road will be even."

Ya'qoub Zolfi, a university student and operator of a newspaper stand, said that in the people's opinion the press should not be indifferent to the needs and desires of the people. "Unfortunately, there are still some newspapers which are superficial and lack thought-provoking articles. They print subjects which have previously been published and cannot meet the need for scientific information of the society," he said.

He said he reads all dailies and confessed to some weaknesses such as false and misleading titles of news stories, and added that they have been deliberately used to increase sales. "A society rich in cultural tradition should not be like that. The press should be realistic," Ya'qoub Zolfi said.

He complained about the inappropriate system of newspaper distribution in the country and asked responsible authorities to correct the situation.

He said he observed that most newspaper buyers are young people between the ages of 18 to 19, and called on policies that would also encourage children and young adults to read newspapers.

Mohammad-Reza Taheri, who was seen buying two newspapers at the time of this interview said, "I allocate one hour a day to reading newspapers. Newspaper reading increases my knowledge by 20 percent."

An increase in the quality and quantity of publications in any country indicates the country is growing culturally and socially. Although such development may be observed in the Iranian press there is still a gap that exists between the press as it is now and would be called an "ideal" press.

Pishbahar, a reporter holding an MA in communication sciences, believes that for the press to improve in quality it needs concise planning, continuous investment and cooperation between the country's press officials and authorities.

He added that the creation of a data bank and national computer network, modern libraries for storing press materials and continuous education of manpower are important factors in the growth and development of the Iranian press.

Comparing Iran's press with that of other countries he said that Western journalism is a kind of business, influenced by special cultural, political and professional considerations. "Either they do not understand the realities of Third World countries or distort them intentionally," Pishbahar said.

He also believes that Western countries are not culturally-inclined societies. "Freedom of



thinking and democracy exist but the discussions are not aimed at teaching the realities of life."

He said that undeniably all the means of propagation are in the hands of capitalists who make use of them to reach personal aims. In a democratic society cultural development is not necessarily looked upon as a favorable outcome.

He reiterated that although the progress evident in the Iranian press is not so much as it has been hampered by a great number of difficulties, the cultural result has been very positive and the progress curve moving upward.

Firouz Tohidi, another owner of a newspaper stand, said that most of those who buy newspapers in his stand are after political news. "Some of them just stand in front of the stand and read the titles (of news stories)."

He added that some days no newspapers may be obtained. "Most customers are highly educated people proving literacy is an important factor in the sale of newspapers."

According to statistics issued by the Mass Media Study Center (affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance), the priorities people follow in buying newspapers are as follows:

1. Obtaining political information from daily news stories.
2. Obtaining the latest information on sports events.
3. Knowing day-to-day happenings, unusual events such as crimes or killings.
4. Knowing about public issues and information on government subsidized necessities.
5. Acquiring scientific news and technical knowledge.
6. As a source of amusement and to fill leisure time.
7. To be familiar with the attitudes and views of political personalities.
8. To read advertisements.
9. As a habit.
10. To obtain information on art and culture and specific events related thereto.

The above list indicates that scientific news are one of the least given priority. This fact explains why newspaper publishers prefer repeat materials and superficial discussions pertaining to the scientific field. The reading public prefers to be informed of new attitudes, analyses and fair critiques.

The Iranian Press and Foreign Relations

Cultural exploitation is one of the subjects open to heated debate in international forums, especially the United Nations and UNESCO. Third World critics believe that the mass media throughout the world is under the domination of the four Western news agencies — CNN, BBC, AP and AFP.

The extent of world press dependence on these news agencies over the last 30 years cannot be overstated.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is doing its best to open opportunities by which the functions of its press can be made more relevant amidst the changing social and political atmosphere. Considering Iran's international role as the center of the Islamic Movement and the speaker of Third World causes the challenge becomes greater.

The world of Islam recognizes the pioneering and leadership role of Iran. It believes that it is a champion of oppressed peoples and is ready to take up the cause of those whose rights have been violated. The role of Iran's press in this regard cannot be underestimated. It is a powerful force on which to move governments along recognized objectives. It should now draw up an integrated picture of those objectives and hopes in the minds of the people.

Regarding foreign dependence,

(Contd. on Pg. 14)

Three Plays From Ionesco in Tehran



Tehran Times Service

Directed by Bahman Mo'tamedian
Cast: Ala' Mohseni, Mahtab Naseri, Mohammad Yaghoobi, Deniz Mani, Parizad Seif, Bahman Rowshani, Aadel Beikzadeh

TEHRAN — Eugene Ionesco, French playwright, was born in 1912 in Bucharest, Romania, but lived most of his life in France, where he became a citizen. He writes only in French.

Following a long period of little recognition, Ionesco became one the most widely produced playwrights, with productions by leading companies, including the Comedie Francaise. *The Bald Soprano* (1950) was his first critical success. He followed with others — *The Lesson* (1951), *Rhinoceros* (1951), *Exit the King* (1962), *Hunger and the Thirst* (1965). His early plays mocked the boredom of modern life and its stress on conformity. His later plays embraced elements of mysticism, attacking the pressures of political left and right dogmatism.

Ionesco's plays are noted for their hilarious, chaotic vision of the world, reflecting his view that much of modern existence is basically meaningless, or absurd.

The term "Theater of the Absurd" identifies this kind of modern drama. Ionesco is one of the its founders and leaders.

The Bald Soprano (La Cantatrice Chauve) does not enjoy a story line. The play focuses primarily on a few hours with the Smiths who host the Marthons. The two families, a fireman, and a maid are the only characters of this play.

Paying attention to the boredom of modern life, Ionesco takes the family oppositions, thoughts and relations under scrutiny to mock, for example, the high capitalist class of the society.

The Smiths, though husband and wife, cannot stand each other. The husband and wife relation of the two families is immoral in a way that Mrs. Smith tends to have relations with Mr. Marthon and so does Mrs. Marthon.

Absurd dialog, superficial analysis of the situation, illogical view on the issues of life, contradictory expressions, and Mrs. Marthon's interesting claim (who say· they have had a very logical day, all introduce *The Bald Soprano* as a unique grotesque play.

This powerful play, had ample motifs to tempt a couple of young theater actors and actresses to take it on the stage. The group had an affable understanding of the play. Ala' Mohseni, casting Mr. Marthon, with his powerful art of theater, gives life to the work. Other actors and actresses did their best; and it was acceptable.

The Marriageable Girl, with a similar setting to *The Bald Soprano,* presents Ionesco's attention to the tragedy of language — an extinguished language which is more a means of misunderstanding rather than of understanding and affinity.

With patience and ample recognition Bahman Mo'tamedian could well direct Mahtab Naseri and Ala' Mohseni, the main characters, in line with the views of the writer.

The third play, *Jack or Yield,* narrates the story of a young dissident who opposes his parents' ways of bearing and educating child, but finally he yields.

One of the distinctive characteristics of this play, is the cast of Mother Reberta by an actor. In this play the incarnation of the identity is at its peak in a way that it is so hard to distinguish opposite sexes and say who's who.

Generally speaking, the theater group of Rassam Honar College Institute, presented three valuable plays for theater-goers at a time when it is so hard to find a good play in the slogan-stricken theater of the country.



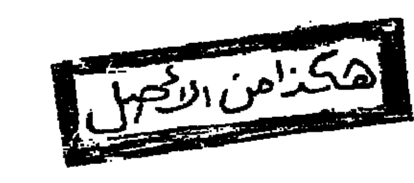
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Schubert's birth day, Ebrahim Lotfi (first violin), Mazyar Zahiroddini (second violin), Emad Reza Nekuie (viola), and Majid Esmaili (cello) perform their string Quartet at Farabi Hall.

Schubert, the Austrian composer, was born in Vienna in 1797. One of the great romantic composers, he learned to play the violin, viola, and piano as a child, but was not a virtuoso. As a choirboy in the Imperial Court Chapel (1808-13) he was educated at the Konvikt, the singers' school. There he studied with Antonio Salieri, teacher also of Beethoven and Liszt.

Schubert's short, tragic life was marked by poverty, illness, and frustration. Like Beethoven, he sought to be independent, but was unsuccessful. His music was not widely disseminated, and his publishers did not treat him too kindly. His devoted followers — among them Josef von Spaun, Frantz von Schober, and Johann Michael Vogl — often gave him material support and organized concerts of his works (called *Schubertiaden*) in their homes.

Schubert's instrument works shows the influence of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, and, to a lesser extent, of Rossini. His melodies are intensely personal and lyrical.



هكذا من الأصل

Martyr Motahhari: Advocate of Real Islamic Principles

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — "Martyr Ayatollah Mortaza Motahhari neither had a dogmatic attitude nor advocated unnecessary change. To present the real Islamic principles and beliefs and prevent ideological deviation, at times he had serious discussions with his friends. He was precise and discerning and insisted on principles. As it is said today, he was a fundamentalist," said Dr. Ali Motahhari, the martyr's son, to the Tehran Times.

Speaking with the daily on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of his father, May 2, he added, "Ayatollah Motahhari was an individual who did everything for the sake of Allah, since he had grasped the soul of religion. Also, while judging other schools of thought or their followers, he was quite impartial. As far as justice was concerned, he would not make any compromise and always demanded full exercise of justice."

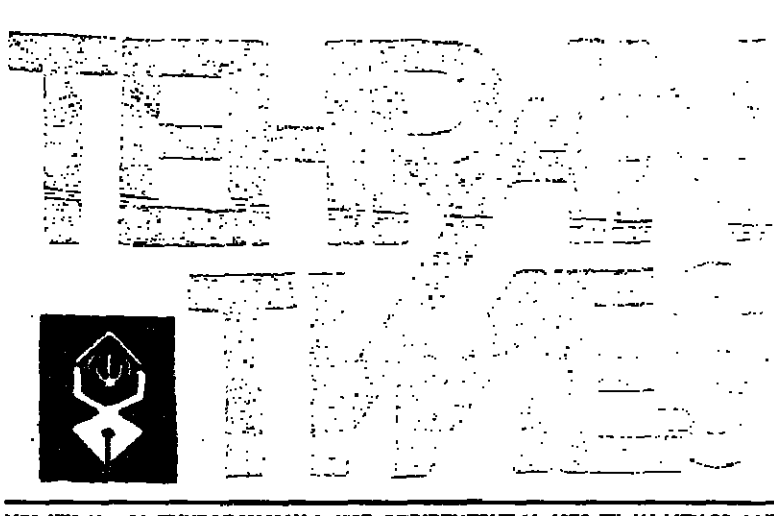
Ali Motahhari, 40, Doctor of Philosophy, has graduated from Tehran University. Regarding his course of studies, he said, "First, I studied mechanical engineering. But, after my father's martyrdom, I switched to philosophy. Presently, I lecture at School of Divinities of Tehran University. I spend my spare time compiling and publishing the works of martyr Motahhari."

Concerning his family, he said, "I have two brothers and four sisters. My elder brother teaches at Cultural Heritage Organization and my younger brother, who has graduated from Sharif Industrial University in electronic engineering, is presently studying at Qom Islamic seminary to become a cleric. My sisters are all housewives."

On the role of his father in bringing up his children, Ali Motahhari noted, "The social and intellectual activities of my father never prevented him from paying due attention to the upbringing and education of his children. He closely observed our educational, moral and psychological condition and always set a good example for us."

Regarding the first published work of the martyr, he said, "The first work of my father that was published as a book was entitled 'the Fundamentals of Philosophy and Realism'. Besides being a valuable work, it had an effective role in neutralizing the atheistic propaganda of the Tudeh Party, which was founded based on materialistic ideology."

(Contd on Pg. 7)



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Special Issue on Martyrdom Anniversary of Ayatollah Motahhari

Motahhari: Link Between University, Islamic Seminary

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — "Martyr Ayatollah Mortaza Motahhari had a dual role in the cultural area: He held debates with non-religious and West-oriented cultural figures; and, in religious circles, he warned against the consequences of deviation from the religious path and leaning toward the Western schools of thought," said Dr. Gholamali Haddad Adel, a member of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution and one of renowned students of martyr Motahhari.

Speaking to the Tehran Times on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Motahhari, May 2, he further praised the scientific and philosophical status of martyr Motahhari and elaborated on his attitude and way of dealing with different trends of secular thinking.

"On the one hand, he held dialogues with secular figures and considered important their concerns and, on the other hand, he sought to make them grasp the Islamic principles and beliefs. Also, as a trusted messenger, he tried to convey the message of the cleric to those studying at the universities and vice versa," he added.

Haddad Adel stressed that martyr Motahhari was always careful that the deviation in the way of thinking of some Islamic revisionists did not harm or undermine the Islamic principles.

Ayatollah Motahhari was among the first group of clerics who came from the holy city of Qom to Tehran in order to lecture at the universities. He started lecturing at the School of Divinities of Tehran University in different branches of Islamic sciences, philosophy and theology. He also delivered lectures at the Islamic center Hosseinieh Ershad, where the Islamic intellectuals including Dr. Ali Shariati often gave lectures.

Dr. Haddad Adel attended lectures of martyr Ayatollah Motahhari on philosophy for several years. He is currently a professor of philosophy at Tehran University and Qom institute for Higher Education.

"Ayatollah Motahhari was an Islamic intellectual who combined wisdom with religion. Today, we are the inheritors of his spiritual, cultural and intellectual achievements and are bound to preserve them as a precious heritage," Haddad Adel concluded.



The 18th Anniversary of Martyrdom of Ayatollah Mortaza Motahhari

May 1, 1997

TEHRAN TIMES

AYATOLLAH MOTAHHARI:

His Role in Defending Islamic Values

Martyr Morteza Motahhari is one of the greatest thinkers of contemporary Muslim world and his greatest achievement was, perhaps, shattering the myth of the West and presenting Islam as the only answer to mankind's needs, particularly in this very age of science and technology. His works constituted an intellectual inspiration and ideological foundation for the movement which culminated in the Islamic Revolution. His writings will go down in history as an authentic and reliable source for the seekers of truth to delve into. As for Motahhari's name, it will live everlastingly together with that of the Islamic Revolution.

During the past century, there have appeared a number of figures in Iran, who have had a role in breaking the myth of the West and the spell of Westernization. One of the most renowned of these figures is the master of knowledge, Martyr Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari.

Martyr Motahhari had concluded that to combat the various manifestations of the Western civilization (in Muslim countries), it was essential that the roots of belief and mentality that result in such social behaviour were cut off. This, in fact, is the main difference between the way in which Martyr Motahhari fought against Westernization and the ways followed by other writers such as Jalal Aal-e Ahmad: the latter attacked the outward appearances of the Westernized elements as well as their mentality and lifestyle. The work of Jalal al-e Ahmad is admittedy of great value, but Martyr Motahhari saw things differently. He had realized that it was initially necessary to destroy the roots of belief and mentality underlying Westernization, followed by measures to change the bases of the belief and mentallity of the new generation. Only then, he believed, would it be possible to reform the Westernized manners and behaviour of this generation.

To achieve this, Martyr Motahhari concentrated his work on the following three areas:

(i) Examining the mental foundations of the westernized elements and the platform from where they attacked Islam.

(ii) Disproving the various philosphical, mental and social schools of thought existing in the West, and also fighting relentlessly against all impure and eclectic mentalities.

(iii) Clarifying and explaining the principles of belief in the Islamic ideology within the framework of reasoning and logical argumentation, using new methhods.

Martyr Motahhari notes in his book, " The Divine Justice", that one of the main motives for his ideological fight was to break the spell of Westernization, and to present Islam as a living and dynamic ideology. He writes:

"Since I began writing many years ago, the sole purpose in all my writings has been to respond to people's most common queries concerning Islam, and to provide answers to their questions. My writings cover such areas as philosophy, sociology, ethics, religious law, and history. Despite the fact that the subjects of these writings are varied, the overriding aim of them all is one and the same. The holy religion of Islam is still widely not recognized and the truths of it have gradually become distorted in people's minds. What counts as the main cause of increasing withdrawal of people from this religion is the wrong teachings given in the name of Islam itself. This holy relicion is today suffering more at the hands of its claiming wellwishers and supporters. The Western civilization's onslaught using both invisible and visible elements on the one hand, and neglect on the part of its claiming supporters in this age on the other, have led to the attack on Islamic thought in various sections, from major principles to minor points. Therefore, I saw it as my duty to try and help improve the situation as far as my ability allows."

Ayatollah Motahhhari soon realized that it is impossible to fight against the manifestations of Westernization without a battle against the mental and philosophical foundations of the predominant Western culture. In other words, one has to fight against its roots, and such a struggle would require careful long-term planning. Such a combat would involve striving to negate the foundations of the predominant atheistic culture and then replacing it with a philosophical foundation and a genuine mental system capable of confronting and withstanding the Western culture's offensives. This would be a struggle to regain the cultural-national identity which, over the years, has been undermined as a result of the trickery and deceit of the colonialists; and a battle in the direction of returning to one's own history and culutre.

In order to defeat the prevailing Westernization fever, Ayatollah Motahhari took up the great responsibility of eamining and disproving the theories of the social-philosophical schools of thought in the West and their mental foundations and ideological bases and then presenting Islam as a comprehensive school of thought.

One of the platforms from which the Westernized elements attacked the Eastern mental and ideological system, and also through which they penetrated the ideological fortifications of the new generation in the Islamic society, was the Trojan horse of Western "Humanism". This has been used as an excuse to discredit the Islamic system of belief in God and divinity, by such writers as Akhoondzadeh, Malcom-Khan Armani, Taghezadeh, Forooghi and indeed all today's liberals and confused eclectics. So Martyr Motahhari embarked on combating the prevalent Western mentality and also the mental basis of the Westernized. In various writings and speeches (such as "Man in the Qoran", "Man and Faith", etc.), Ayatollah Motahhari began to analyse the exact details of the Humanistic school of thought. He used the very firm logic of Islam in smashing this new idol of the West and proved that the Western Humanism, under the pretext exalting man, in fact lowered man to the level of animals, by taking away his belief in, and relationship with God.

Another basis of thinking for the Westernized elements was their belief in "Scientism", which was used as a means by which to invalidate the system of belief in the society, as well as the presiding values. It is worth noting that "Science", and "Scientism" which is really a pseudo-school of thought, are two entirely different things. Indeed, science itself is the greatest negator of scientism. However, under the cover of science, the Westernized elements strived to spread Scientism. They tried to invalidate the basis and religious content of Islam so as to undermine the beliefs and accepted values of the society.

Using his able thoughts and illucid writings, Ayatollah Motahhari fought against Scientism and destroyed its foundations with ample proof. In the book, "Invisible Divine Aid", he proves that "science" can never replace religion. In another book called "The Philosophy and Methodology of Realism", he examines "sensationalism", and shows how indadequte empirical methodology is.

As for materialist and Marxist philosophy, this is one of the Western ideologies that has had the greatest share in spreading the seeds of Westoxication and alienation (from one's self) among the new generation. Because of this, from the outset, Ayatollah Motahhari fought a restless battle against the philosophy and view of Materialism. What in fact played a big role in containing the devastating waves of Materialism over the past 50 years, is his book: "The Philosophy and Methodology of Realism". In addition, in most of his other books, Ayatollah Motahhari says the foundations of Marxism and proves their lack of authenticity. In fact, 80 hours of speeches by Ayatollah Motahhari on tape, on the subject of Marxism, destroy the very foundations of this ideology.





Ayatollah Motahhari's second mission involved the destruction of the bases from which the Westoxicated elements used to launch their attacks on Islam. Under various pretexts, and from various bases, the latter executed their onslaught on Islam to create self-alienation in the society. Sometimes the question of women's "hijab" (modest dress) would be raised to portray Islam as a reactionary religion that held the society back. On other occasions, descrimination between the two sexes was their ploy. Other times, they would place Iran face to face with Islam, and whip up jingoism, using this as a launching pad from which to attack the prevailing system of belief in the society. And sometimes, they spoke about Iran's ancient civilization and its destruction by Muslims, as well as the book burning in the libraries of (ancient) Iran and Alexandria.

Ayatollah Motahhari took a firm stand against all such accusations, and in order to make their attacks ineffective, he wrote many books on such subjects as women's hijab, the rights of women in Islam, the reciprocal services of Islam and Iran, and the issue of 'book-burning' in (ancient) Iran and Egypt. Thus, he proved that such accusations were hollow, by well-researched and scientifically based argumentation. By defending Islam and at the same time destroying the attacking basis of the Westoxicated elements (of both right and left), he played an important role in freeing the new generation from the traps laid down by the Westoxicated elements. In the introduction part of his book, "Book-burning in Iran and Egypt", whilst noting the ulterior motives of the enemies of Islam in bringing up such issues, he writes:

"... the main problem is that of colonialism. Political and economic colonization would not be successful unless cultural colonization succeeded first. The main requirement for such a success is the shattering of a people's belief in their culture and history. Colonialism has fully realized, through experience, that the sole culture upon which Muslims rely, and the ideology which they feel proud of, are those of Islam. The rest are mere words which do not survive outside conferences or seminars, and thus do not pose any threat to the public at large. For them to be successful, the belief and faith and trust of the public have to be washed aside so that people would be ready for the next stage, which is the making of people based on Western models."

Ayatollah Motahhari intended to defeat Westoxication by destroying the Westoxicated elements' attacking bases, and by foiling the plots of (such) enemies of Islam. This is clear in the introduction to his book, "Hijab", where he writes: "The roots of many of the religious and moral deviations of the new generation ought to be sought in their thoughts and ideas. The mentality of this generation has not been guided properly...

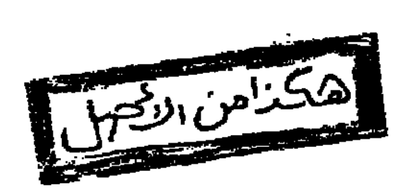
The aim of the present writer in raising, and publicizing the question of Hijab is as follows. It was felt that the increasing practical deviation from the Islamic dresscode (Hijab) together with other matters concerning women, have become a tool in the hands of a bunch of filthy and mercenary agents who use it as a platform from which to launch their anti-Islamic propaganda compaign. Judging by the present circumstances, in which youngsters are given little religious guidance, it is obvious that such false propaganda will succeed in its evil mission."

While the Westoxicated nationalists in Iran, and also the Pahlavi regime, were using patriotism and nationalism as a pretext to attack Islam, the book, "The reciprocal Services of Islam and Iran" written by Atayollah Motahhari was the first organized and scientific attempt to invalidate their ideas and claims. he writes in this book:

"Because we are followers of the religion of Islam, to which the notion of tribalism is alien, we cannot remain indifferent to the efforts being stepped up against this ideology under the name of nationalism or tribalism. We are all aware that recently, a large number of people have begun an extensive campaign against Islam, under the guise of defending Iranian nationalism. These people, pretending to campaign against Arabs and Arabism, in fact intend to belittle Islam."

The above shows that one of the ways chosen by Ayatollah Motahhari to neutralize the desperate attempts of the pioneers of Westernization, including the dependent Pahlavi regime, leftist intellectuals, and the nationalist parties, was to destroy the principal bases from where they launched their attacks against Islam. To this end, Ayatollah Motahhari wrote several books such as "The Divine Justice", The Reciprocal Services of Islam

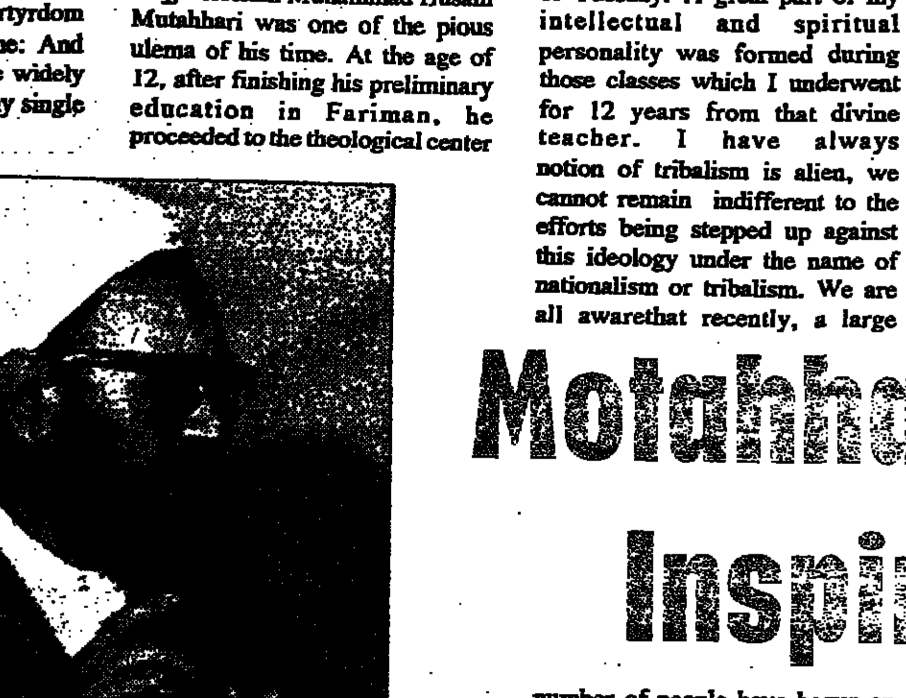






Motahhari's Noble Thoughts Inspiration for Society

18 years have passed since the martyrdom of Ayatollah Murteza Mutahhari on the night of May 2, 1979, only about three months after the victory of Islamic Revolution in Iran. The agents of the U.S. had schemed to destroy the intellect of the Revolution by martyring a great philosopher and thinker of the pro-revolution era. Ironically, Martyr Mutahhari's intellect became even more influencial after his martyrdom than it was in his lifetime: And today his books are more widely read than any works of any single author in Islamic history.



Mutahhari's works were primarily aimed at reviving Islamic thought and philosophy and at equipping the new generation with weapons to fight the deviate ideologies and schools of thought. In addition, it was his attempt to make the youth familiar with the profound teachings of Islam and to reveal its incontestable coherence.

Martyr Mutahhari was a man of extraordinary genius. But he did not devote his genius to totally theoretical and academic pursuits which may have yielded a greater personal satisfaction for a great mind without the immediate impact on the level of the masses which his works produced. He was capable of being simple without loss of profundity, penetrating without involving the reader in intricate technical jargon, and poetic without sacrificing the precision of his logic. In short he gathered within himself all the precious qualities peculiar to the great minds produced by the long Islamic tradition. And Mutahhari was a mind that had greared itself to the intellectual needs of the times.

His books are read by persons of all levels from school students to learned scholars and all of them can benefit from them according to their own level and capacity. One becomes immediately conscious of the various levels of thought his writings offer, and this is a miracle of his writings. We hope that all of his works are translated into foreign languages so that the non-Persian Muslims can appreciate the surprising richness, originality, profundity and vastness of his knowledge and thought.

Through Martyr Mutahhari Islamic philosophy enters into its modern phase and gathers fresh momentum after having remained more or less stagnant after Mulla Sadra (died A.H. 1050). He in Iran, and Martyr Baqir Al-Sadr in Iraq, tore down the arguments of Marxism establishing incontestable superiority of Islamic philosophy, and revealing its essential clarity and coherence over more or less chaotic developments in modern European philosophy in general and Marxism in particular, which in truth is no more than metaphysical muddle-headedness marketted under the deceptive label "scientific".

A Brief Biography:

Martyr Murteza Mutahhari was born on February 2, 1919 (A.H. 1338) in Fariman, a town in the province of Khorasan. His father Hojjatoleslam Muhammad Husain Mutahhari was one of the pious ulema of his time. At the age of 12, after finishing his preliminary education in Fariman, he proceeded to the theological center at Mashhad to receive instruction under Mirza Mehdi Shehidi Razavi. At the age of 18, he set off for Qom for further pursuits of his studies under the supervision of such great teachers as Ayatollah Burujerdi and Imam Khomeini and others. His acquaintance with Hadj Mirza Ali Agha Shirazi had great effect on his thoughts at this period of his life.

In the course of studies, Martyr Mutahhari developed a deep interest in philosophy to which he devoted himself together with his studies in Usool (the principles of jurisprudence) and Fiqh (jurisprudence). At this time, he was considered one of the most brilliant students at the theological center of Qom and a a favorite student of Imam Khomeini. He also studied under teachers like Ayatollah Mohaqqiq, Agha Mehdi Mirza Ashtiyani, Allama Tabatabai and Ayatollah Burujerdi, and reached the highest level of academic learning.

Among his teachers could be mentioned the names of Ayatollah Yathrabi Kashani, Ayatollah Khonsari and Ayatollah Sadr.

It seems that his interest in philosophy dates back from his early youth when he was still in Mashhad. Later recalling those days he wrote: "I can recall that from the time I began studying Arabic in Mashhad, I attached great value to philosophers and thinkers, although I was not familiar with their thoughts. But somehow I was more interested in them than in inventors, explorers and scientists. This was just because I considered the former group as heroes of the world of thought."

This tells us that Ustad Mutahhari was attracted to philosophy even before he started its serious study in Qom under such teachers as Imam Khomeini and later Allamah Tabatabai for 15 years. Beside the philosophy lessons given by Imam Khomeini, late Mutahhari also attended Imam's classes on Akhlaq (Ethics). It seems that these lessons had a profound influence in forging his personality. He himself recalls Imam Khomeini's lessons in these worlds: "The lessons in ethics delivered by my beloved and favorite teacher (Imam Khomeini) on every Thursday and Friday were actually exercises and training in treading the spiritual path of gnosticism and was not just a dry lesson in lifeless ethics. His teachings overwhelmed me to such an extent that I found myself a great deal under their influence that lasted until the next Monday or Tuesday. A great part of my intellectual and spiritual personality was formed during those classes which I underwent for 12 years from that divine teacher. I have always notion of tribalism is alien, we cannot remain indifferent to the efforts being stepped up against this ideology under the name of nationalism or tribalism. We are all awarethat recently, a large number of people have begun an extensive campaign against Islam, under the guise of defnding Iranian nationalism. These people, pretending to campaign against Arabs and Arabism, in fact intend to belittle Islam."

The above shows that one of the ways chosen by Ayatollah Motahhari to neutralize the desperate attempts of the pioneers of Westernization, including the dependent Pahlavi regime, leftist intellectuals, and the nationalist parties, was to destroy the principal bases from where they launched their attacks against Islam. To this end, Ayatollah Motahhari wrote several books such as "The Divine Justice", The Reciprocal Services of Islam and Iran", "The Question of Hijab", and "Book-burning in Iran and Egypt".

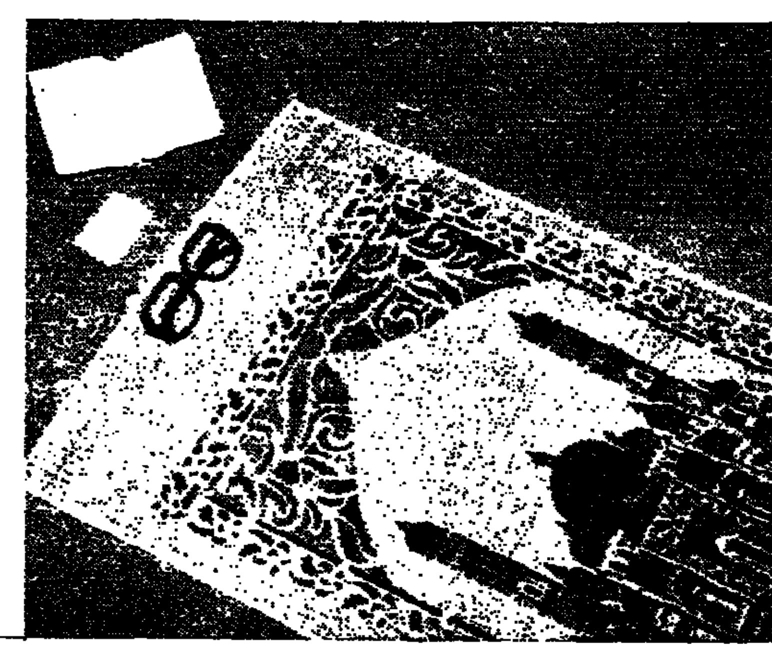
The role of Ayatollah Motahhari is not limited to breaking the myth of the West. Rather, he played a major role in setting up the movement for the revival of man's Divine self and at the same time presenting Islam as a comprehensive and dynamic ideology.

Ayatollah Motahhari did not feel content with merely invalidating the foundations fo alien thoughts and cultures; he also presented a system of thought with solid and genuine philosophical foundations capable of confronting and defeating the opposing culture (S).

He had done this with full awareness. He believed that the movement for the revival of man's Divine self would only bear fruit if it had strong mental backing. Such a view had previously been expressed by Mohammad Abdul and Iqbal, who stressed that invalidating alien schools of thought was not enough, and that the ideology of Islam had to be presented in its most genuine form alongside it. In his book, "The Islamic Movements of the Past Century", Ayatollah Motahhari writes:

Every social movement has to be backed by an ideological movement ... We have to collect and compile our moral, political, historical, economic, religious and Divine philosophies which are inspired by the teachings of Islam, and then put the result at the disposal of the new generations."

Alongside Iqbal and Maulana Maudoodi in the Indian sub-continent, the thinkers of Ikhwan al-Muslimeen in the Arab world, and some Iranian thinkers such as Allamah Tabatabaee and Dr. Shariati, Ayatollah Motahhari presented Islam as a system with philosophical, social, political and economic dimensions. He also brought into discussion such questions as "cognition", "worldview", sociology, philosophy of history and the economic system in Islam.



At this point it is imposrtant to note that Ayatollah Motahhari, like most emporary Islamic movements, would not reject the Western culture and civilization outright: He would distinguish the right from the wrong and would only accept those aspects of Western culture and civilization which were thoroughly compatible with the teachings of islam. He would act like a "filter" which would analyze the thoughts coming from the West, differentiate between the good and the bad, and grant entry permission only to those which were compatible with Islamic thought and reject all that was alien to it.



What has been said so far, only covers a very limited part of Martyr Ayatollah Motahhari's works. It would be very difficult, perhaps impossible, for any one to do full justice to the services of a man who, in the words of the late Imam Khomeini, spent his entire life-time for the cause of Islam. For any individual, group, society and even nation which whishes to pay tribute to Ayatollah Motahhari, there is no better way than to study his works and thoughts with a view to fully implementing them in practice. No duobt the inspiring works of Ayatollah Motahhari were instrumental in the success of the Islamic Revolution and no doubt they will help it through the difficult years ahead. However, there are many other Islamic revolutions yet to be accomplished in other parts of the world: They will need Ayatollah Motahhari's illuminating thoghts just as much as the Islamic Revolution in Iran did.

Finally, it is in order to note that the World of Islam was deprived of the services of Ayatollah Motahhari less than three months after the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The enemies of Islam had correctly identified Motahhari as a a pillar of the Islamic Revolution and assassinated him on 2 May 1979. The enemies of Islam are more vigilant and watchful than some of its friends. This is indeed a great tragedy of our time.

ON THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MARTYRDOM



THE 12th of Ordibehesht (May 2) marks the anniversary of martyrdom of a great man from the Islamic Revolution's caravan of martyrs.

He had two distinctions: being a prominent alim (religious scholar) and achieving the rank of martyrdom. He went ahead of the others in many aspects. By dedicating his blood to his cause he proved the righteousness of his intellect and practice.

The martyred Ustad (literally: master), philosopher, and great Islamic scholar, Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, was really one of the most notable faces in the history of the Islamic Revolution. He was also among the best students of the late Imam Khomeini.

In any topic he took up for study, be it philosophy, theosophy, literature, Islamic jurisprucence and history, and analysis of political and social movements, he delved so deeply into the subject that all levels of scholars benefitted from his work.

Undoubtedly, Martyr Motahhari's life-long struggle against atheistic schools and his exposure of weak logical bases of materialistic doctrines and eclectic and deviant "isms" enraged the enemies to the extent that they ultimately assassinated him.

His martyrdom was, therefore, a result of his unremitting struggle against nifaq and munafiqin (hypocrisy and hypocrites), and his diligent efforts to wipe out visage of Islam from the embellishments and doubts cast by oppositionists. He did all this as he felt dutybound to guard the purity of Islamic thoughts.

Ustad Motahhari was not just a great thinker, nor just a competent researcher. He was one of the standard-bearers of the Islamic Movement initiated by the late Imam Khomeini. In every sense he was a great Islamic Mujahid.

In terms of his specialization and method, he was a philosopher. But, from the view point of his aims and topic of inquiry, he was an Islamic scholar.

He was committed to social change and the saving of the younger generation from deviations. He employed all his efforts and talents in propagation, teaching, and writing towards achieving these goals.

Shahid Motahhari was one of the founders of the "Movement for unity of theological and university students."

His presence in the scene for several decades as a university professor helped develop the movement.

His assets in his work were his curiosity, his deep research and keen attention to details. These two traits may be observed in all his works.



During the years 1946 and 1952, in the old city of Qom, he had established close contacts with then religious leader Ayatollah Kashani and a group founded by Navvab Safavi, Fadayan Islam.

Also, he participated in the late Imam Khomeini's classes, held in Qom's theology schools.

In 1963 when the Islamic (movement) under Imam's leadership surfaced, he was one of its staunch supporters. In this connection, he was arrested and spent some time in prison.

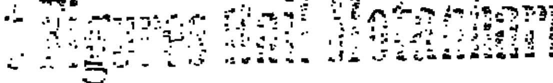
After his release, he was still always under surveillance of shah's secret police, SAVAK.

Ustad Motahhari has left behind tens of books in all fields needed by the Islamic society (beliefs, politics, ethics, history, etc). Among them, his notes and explanation on Allama Tabatabai's PRINCIPLES OF PHILOSOPHY AND THE METHOD OF REALISM has won him a great reputation. This book played an important part in the shaking of the foundations of materialistic philosophy in Iran.

The book, THE MUTUAL SERVICES OF ISLAM AND IRAN is another of his books that evaluates the problem of Nationalism alongside the Islamic doctrine.

Martyr Motahhari, in his book, THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS OF THE PAST 100 YEARS, cites 6 causes which defeat a revolution: 1. The influence of foreign ideologies, 2. Extreme progressivism; 3. Leaving the movement unfinished; 4. The penetration of the opportunists; 5. The vagueness of the movement's future plans, and 6. The spiritual decline of its advocates.

Martyr Motahhari, also in his books such as JIHAD, HUSSEIN'S EPIC, SHAHID, CALL TO GOOD, BEHAVIOR AND FORBID BAD CONDUCTS, ATTRACTIONS AND REPULS IONS OF IMAM ALI (A.S.); tried to inject an epic-evolving mentality into the Islamic Revolution's victory was indeed a great loss for the Islamic revolution and culture.



Prominent Figures Hail Motahhari

Ayatollah Beheshti Praises Motahhari

Ayatollah Beheshti, who was later martyred and joined Motahhari, had said:

Ustad's lectures and writings had a great influence on the Islamic way of life and thought of our youth.

His martyrdom had a terrific impact on our society.

It revealed that the world Imperialists and enemies of our Revolution were aware of and sensitive to the deep impression that this class of people (to whom the Ustad belonged) were making on the nation.

I think the reason for the Imam to hold Ustad Motahhari in such high esteem and respect was not only because Ustad had been a student of his, but more as a close friend.

The Imam believed in his knowledge and virtues, and was confident of his way of thought, and his discernment in all things.

Every drop of Ustad's blood will go towards the making of another martyr in society.

Allameh Tabatabai Lauds Ustad

Ustad Motahhari was highly talented in philosophy and nothing of my teaching was wasted on him.

He had a razor sharp mind which, moreover, was like a sponge that absorbed everything imparted to him.

He was keen and, above all, he was a true man of God.



Attributes of Martyr Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari

1 — Performing the ablution repeatedly and recommending others to do so;

2 — Having great interest in nature and meditating on the creation and its beauties;

3 — Praying to the Lord at midnight;

4 — Reciting the Holy Qoran for some 20 minutes before going to bed at night;

5 — Overseeing the obligatory religious acts of his children;

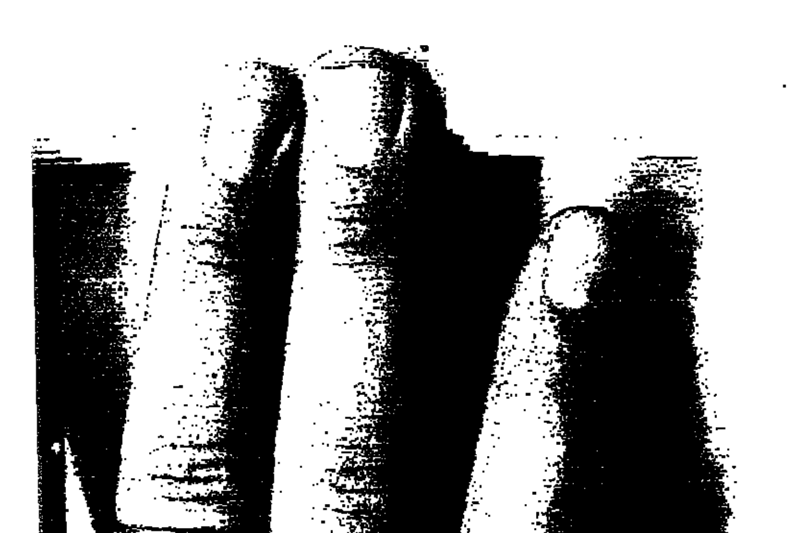
6 — Giving alms and charity to the needy;

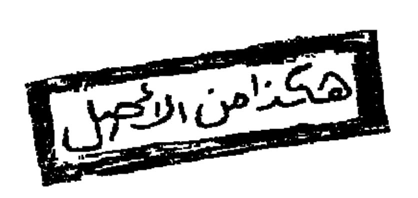
7 — Loving to become martyred and asking others to pray that his hope would materialize;

8 — Having great respect for his parents and teachers;

9 — Shunning publicity;

10 — Believing strongly in divine assistance and guidance.





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May 1, 1997 /Page



Leadership of the 'New Generation'

By Ayatollah Motahhari

Difference between prophets and philosophers

One of the differences between the method of the prophets and the method of the philosophers is that the philosophers have only a single train of logic and in their expositions keep to single, distinct level. They are like those shopkeepers who have only one product in stock, and whose customers are all of a single type. Obviously, this is one of their shortcomings. Unable to express their teachings except through the means of a set of special terms, the philosophers can only be appreciated and understood by people acquainted with those terms. It is said that in the place where Plato taught - a garden outside Athens called the Academy, a poem was chalked up on the door whose content was: He who has not studied Geometry must not enter this Academy.

The method of the prophets, however, allows every type of student to benefit. The prophets' shop contains every kind of product. Their teachings are on such a high level that even Plato could come and learn while also on a level so low that even the old peasant woman can benefit. Never has it been written on the door of any prophet that in order to benefit from his teachings one must have attained a certain level of academic ability. Of course, the more one has studied and the deeper one's intellectual capacity the more one will benefit. Yet, however low one's capacity may be, still one will derive some benefit:

'Verily we prophets are commanded to speak to the people at the level of their intellects.'

Having arrived at this point there is another matter we are now able to realise. In contrast to the prophets and (infallible) Imams, the philosophers' best pupils are those who attended their lessons and learnt from them directly. The best pupils of Plato, Aristotle and Ibn Sina were those whom they taught first hand. As the best person to have understood the philosophy of Ibn Sina we can cite his disciples Bahmanyar or Juzjani. Yet can the same be said in the case of the Prophet of Islam (S.), Imam Ali (A.) or Imam al-Sadiq (A.)?

'Verily we Prophets are commanded to speak to the people at the level of their intellects.'

Are their best publis those who learnt from them directly? The answer is negative. This does not apply to the pupils of prophets and Imams.

There is a tradition from the Prophet (S.) that is an indication of this matter, a tradition which most of the people of that age - the exceptions being a small number of people such as Salman, Abu Dhar, Miqdad and others of that calibre - had not the capacity to understand:

'God aid be who listens to my words and memorizes them and passes them on to whomsoever they had not reached. How often the bearer of fiqh is not faqeeh, and how often the bearer of fiqh (bears it) to he who is more faqeeh than himself.'

Fiqh means a religious truth that requires deep reflection to be understood. (By extension, faqeeh means a learned person capable of deep religious thinking and original interpretation.) In this context fiqh means the truths the people hear from the Prophet's tongue. The Prophet (S.) is saying that many who hear and memorize his words are not necessarily amongst those whose mental powers have the capacity of understanding them, and many relate these truths to those more able to understand them than they themselves.

The same is true of the Holy Quran; it cannot be said that the Quran was better understood in the past: quite the reverse. The miracle of the Quran is that it is always in advance of the commentaries written upon it.

Again, we need to look no further than the science of fiqh, (jurisprudence) for clearly the companions of the Prophet (S.), of Ali (A.) or of Imam al-Sadiq - even the likes of Hisham ibn al-Hakam - were not able to understand and analyse the rules of jurisprudence that have come to us from the Prophet (S.) or through the Imams (A.) in the same way as men such as Muhaqqiq Hilli, Allamah Hilli and Shaykh Murtada Ansari.



In the philosophical method the person with the best understanding of the teachings of the master is he who precedes all others, whereas in the method of the Prophets and Imams the person with the best understanding is he who comes in the future endowed with more knowledge and understanding. This is one of the miracles of prophethood.

In traditions on Divine Unity (tawhid), it is stated that God revealed Surah al-Ikhlas (Quran 112) and the first verse of Surah al-Hadid (Quran 57), two of the loftiest and most precise accounts of Divine Unity, for the deep-thinking people who will appear in the Final Age. That is, the people of the age of revelation had not the capacity for these verses, but the people of the future will have the capacity for them: these verses will be their spiritual sustenacne. This is another miracle of prophethood and the Sacred Quran.

We have cited these instances so that when raising the question of the guidance of the new generation, we are not faced with the objection that guidance of the new generation should be the same as the guidance of the "old" generation. After all, the prayer of one is the same as the prayer of the other; so why, it may be asked, should the issue of leadership be any different? Or, it may be suggested whatever was good enough for previous generations is good enough for the present generation.

Here it must also be stated that by the new generation I do not necessarily mean only those who are young. Rather, I mean those who through their association with modern civilizations have developed a special way of thought, whether they are old or whether they are young. The majority of such people, of course, are young. But there are also many who are older but who have the 'modern' way of thought. On the other hand, there are also many youngsters who share the same way of thinking with their elders and the people of ancient times.

In this lecture, I am talking of those who have a special way of thought, who are increasing and who will be the young and old of the future. My point is that if, God



forbids, no steps are taken for the guidance and leadership of this generation, the future will be lost. This is an important issue in our country. Of course, the issue also exists in the other Muslim countries, but they thought of it before us and have long since raised it as a serious issue. We do not yet take this issue seriously. We look on the younger generation simply as being given over to their lusts and desires, and we imagine that although we deride them, treat them with sarcasm in our sermons and insult them, by contradicting them and getting them to listen to us, everything will be all right, and that by shouting at them the problem will be solved. This

'He who is aware of his time will not be attacked by confusion.'

attitude is meant to act as a lullaby: to keep us asleep and prevent us from starting to think of a real solution. We may wake up when it is too late.

One of the truly great sayings of Imam al-Sadiq (A.) narrated in al-Kafi, is as follows:

'He who is aware of his time will not be attacked by confusion.'

The word 'attacked' (tahjam) does not refer to all kinds of attack; it means a sudden attack that takes its object by surprise. Thus the Imam (A.) tells us that with awareness of the condition of one's time, one will not be suddenly set upon by confusion, the type of confusion that disrupts human faculties to the extent that one will not be able to find the way to safety.

In the same tradition there are many other great phrases. Amongst them is the phrase:

'He will not prosper who does not reflect, and he will not reflect who has no knowledge.'

In other words, intellectual power ('aql) increases with knowledge. The intellect is the power to analyse and find the relationship between things - that is, to discover causes and foresee results. The intellect takes substance from knowledge; the intellect is a lamp and knowledge is its fuel.

Then comes the phrase:

'...and whoever understands will be ennobled.'

Thus there is nothing to fear in knowledge; knowledge must not be considered dangerous.

Unfortunately, we are the opposite examples of 'he who is aware of his time will not be attacked by confusion'. From beginning to end, from top to bottom we are unaware of our time. We are mere onlookers at what is happening around us and, suddenly, we will find ourselves face to face, for example, with the issue of redistribution of land. We realize that there must be land reform. The issue catches us off our guard because we are unaware of our time. We had not foreseen the issue and are therefore at a loss as to what should be done.

In the same way we may be unaware of what is going on in the world and of what is happening behind the cutain when, suddenly, we are faced with the issue of women's rights. We may have no chance to think about this issue and gather our senses, to understand whether the issue is a serious one. We must find out whether the supporters of social rights for women are serious or whether they have another purpose in mind.

What should we do?

More important than providing a method for guiding the modern generation is the realization that leadership and guidance must vary in method according to different periods and persons, and we must rid ourselves once and for all of the notion that the new generation should be led through the old method(s).

Firstly, we must become acquainted with the modern generation. We must understand their particular characteristics, their strengths and their weaknesses. In this regard there are two prevalent views. One of these is that the modern generation is raw and inexperienced, deceived and conceited, preoccupied with desires and lusts, and subject to numerous faults. Those holding this view continually treat the new generation with contempt and speak badly of them.

The new generation themselves, for their part, see things to be quite the reverse. They do not see themselves to be riddled with faults. They see themselves as paragons of awareness, paragons of acumen and the standard bearers of lofty ideals. While the older generation considers the mordern generation corrupt heretics, the latter consider the former ignorant fools.

Of course it is possible for one generation to be more rightous or more deviant than another. In my view, there are some verses in the Surah al-Ahqaf (Quran 46) that picture two generations, one rightous and one deviant. It cannot be said that every generation is more deviant than the generation preceding it, or that every generation is an advancement on the preceding generations and less prone to decline:

'We have engjoined man to show kindness to his parents. With much pain his mother bears him, and with much pain she brings him into the world. He is born and weaned in thirty months. When he grows to manhood and attains his fortieth year, let him say: "Grant me, Lord, that I may give thanks for the favours You have bestowed on me and on my parents, and to do good works that will please you. Grant me, good descendants. To You I turn and to You I surrender myself".' (46:15).

This verse is an exposition of a righteous generation. Some have said that the verse describes Imam Hussain(A.). But although Imam Hussain A.) may be its perfect embodiment, the meaning is general. The verse mentions five or six special characteristics of a righteous generation, the first of which is the spirit of gratitude and appreciation in the face of the blessings and favours of creation:

This is how a rightous person (representing a righteous generation) regards the multitude of blessings he and the preceding gengerations have been favoured with. It shows a plea for the strength and ability to value and appreciate God's blessings, and for the understanding of how to make use of them in the manner most fitting and pleasing to Him. After all, the true thanks for each blessing is to derive from it the benefit for which it was intended.

The second characteristic is that of asking from God success in one's actions. The verse turns to the subject of actions, but actions that please God by being beneficial:

Then comes concern for the following generation and their righteousness and well-being: '..."Grant me good descendents..."'

The next is repentance (tawaba), turning away from the failings and shortcomings of one's past: '..."To You I turn..."'

This is followed by submission to the Truth and the laws He has placed in nature and in the shari'ah. To disobey these laws leads to destruction and oblivion: '..."I surrender myself."'

The verses that follow are in the plural case, and this indicates that

(Contd on Pg. 7)

TEHRAN TIMES

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE QORAN



By Martyr Mortaza Motahhari

QORANIC OUTLOOK REGARDING "THE HEART"

Perhaps I need not explain here, that in the language of literature and mysticism, the term" heart" does not mean the organ situated in the left side of the human body, which pumps blood into the blood vessels. What is implied is the sublime and distinguishing faculty of the human soul, as can be readily understood from the following examples from the Qoran and verses of Sa'di:

"Surely in that there is a reminder to him who has a heart...". *(50:37)*

My heart was alarmed [on sensing the coming danger],
While I, a thoughtless darvish,

Do not know what this wandering prey has come across.

These two examples make it obvious that the connoted meaning of the heart is quite different from the bodily organ. Elsewhere, the Qoran refers to the ailments of the heart:

"In their hearts is a sickness, and God has increased that sickness..." (2:10)

To cure this sickness is beyond the powers of any man of medicine, even the heart specialist; only the doctors of the spirit can diagnose such diseases and suggest proper remedies.

DEFINITION OF THE HEART

What is the definition of this heart then? An answer to this question is to be sought in the reality of human existence. Every human being, although he is a single individual, possesses myriads of existential dimensions. The human "self" encompasses myriads of thoughts, desires, fears, hopes and inclinations. Like the ocean which links all rivers with one another, all these components of the human personality are related to the same center, which unites them with one another. The "self" itself is the deep and unfathomable ocean, whose depths no one can claim to have charted out and to have discovered all its mysteries. Philosophers, mystics, and psychologists-each of them has tried in his own specific way to explore its dephts, and has succeeded only to a certain degree in discovering its secrets. Perhaps the mystics, a bit more than others, have been successful in this regard. What the Qoran refers to as the heart, is the reality of that ocean, which includes all that we name as the manifestations of the soul, to which all its rivers and tributaries are connected. Even reason is one of the various rivers associated with this sea.

In places where the Qoran speaks of revelation, it does not make any mention of reason; rather it is merely concerned with the heart of the Prophet (S). This does not mean an absence of rational and demonstrative reception of the holy Qoran on the part of the Prophet (S), but it was his heart which, in a state that we cannot imagine, obtained the direct experience and awareness of those transcendental realities. The verses of Surat al-Najm *(the Star)* and Surat al-Takwir *(the Covering up)* describe the state of this union to some extent:

"...Not speaks he out of caprice. This is naught but a revelation revealed, taught him by one terrible in power, very strong; he stood poised, being on the higher horizon, then drew near and approached nearer, two bow's length away, or nearer, then revealed to His servant that He revealed. His heart lies not of what he saw." (53:3-11)

The Qoran mentions all these things to show that these matters are basically beyond the range of rational understanding.

"Truly this is the word of a noble messenger having power, of honored place with the Lord of the Throne, obeyed, moreover trusty. Your companion is not possessed; he truly saw him on the clear horizon; he is not niggardly of the Unseen." (81:19-23)

Mohammad Iqbal offers a fine interpretation of this subject. He says that the prophet is one who, at first, imbibes the entire truth, and later on, in order to enrich the world and to alter the course of history, communicates everything that has reached him by the way of Revelation.

Wherever the Qoran speaks of the revelation and the heart, although its import transcends the limits of reason and thought, its speech is not irrational or anti-rational. It expounds a vision which surpasses human reason and sensibility, and enters a domain which is, basically, beyond reason and intellect.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HEART

The Qoran regards the heart, also, as an instrument of understanding. In fact, the greater part of the Qoranic message is addressed to the human heart-a message wich is audible to the ears of the heart alone, and is inscrutable to other receptive faculties. Accordingly, it attaches great importance to the care, protection and development of this instrument. In the Qoran, we repeatedly come across such notions as purification of the self, purity and enlightenment of the heart, and purification of the heart:

"Prosperous is he who purifies it [the self]."

"No indeed, but that which they were earning has overwhelmed their hearts." (83:14)

And about the salvation and enlightening of the heart, the Qoran says:

"...if you fear God, He will assign you [the capacity of] distinguishing..." (8:29)

"But those who struggle in Our [cause], surely We shall guide them in Our ways..." (29:69)

Contrarily, the Qoran recurringly reminds that indecencies infect and darken the human soul, and deprive the human heart of sublime inclinations and virtuous tendencies. At one place, speaking on behalf of the believers, it says:

"Our Lord, make not our hearts to swerve after Thou hast guided us..." (3:8)

Describing the qualities of the evildoers, the Qoran says:

"No indeed; but that which they were earning has overwhelmed their hearts." (83:14)

The darkness of sin and injustice has engulfed their hearts:

"...When they swerved, God caused their hearts to swerve..." (61:5)

About the sealing and hardening of the hearts, it says:

God has set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing, and on their eyes is a covering..." (2:7)

And also:

"We lay veils upon their hearts lest they understand it..." (6:25)

"...So does God seal the hearts of the unbelievers." (7:101)

"...So that their hearts have become hard, and many of them are ungodly." (57:16)

All these verses point to the fact that the Qoran recommends a sublime, spiritual atmosphere for mankind, and deems it necessary for every individual to strive to keep it clean and unpolluted. In addition, since an unsound social atmosphere renders fruitless the efforts of most individuals to keep pure and wholesome, the Qoran recommends that the people should employ all their endeavor in the direction of purification of their social atmosphere. The Qoran unquivocally propounds the view that the continued existence of all those sublime values, beliefs and ideas, and continued social receptivity to all its moral advice and counsels, depends upon individual and collective struggle to eradicate all types of meanness, sensibility, and lewdness.

Human history itself is a witness to the fact that whenever despotic regimes have wanted to bring other societies under their autocratic rule, they have tried to corrupt their social spirit and pollute their social atmosphee. They provided enormous facilities for the people to indulge in licentiousness, and gave them every kind of freedom in this regard. A heart-rending account of this unholy treatment meted out to Muslims of Spain-a region which is regarded to have played an effective role in initiating the Renaissance, and had the most advanced culture in Europe—throws enough light on this phenomenon. In order to divest Spain out of Muslim hands, the Christians resorted to defilement of the morals of Muslim youths, by providing ample facilities for their debaucheries. They even went to the extent of alluring and enticing the army generals and government officials in topmost ranks. They thus succeeded in diverting Muslims from the path of determination and purpose, and in divesting them of their power, their strength of faith, and purity of soul, converting them into profligate weaklings addicted to drinking and licentiousness. It is obvious that it is not very difficult to subdue such individuals. Christians took revenge on nearly eight hundred years of Muslim rule in such a way that history is ashamed at recounting those deeds. The same Christians who, according to the teachings of Jesus Christ *("offer your left cheek if your right cheek is slapped")*, were supposed to behave in a different way, surpassed the blood-thirsty tradition of Genghiz Khan by the massacre of Muslims in Spain. Nevertheless, the ruin that Muslims suffered was the result of their own spiritual degeneration and decay; it was their punishment for abandoning the Qoranic commands.

In our times, also, wherever the evil of colonialism exists, the same practices are vigorously adopted—a danger against which the Qoran so emphatically warns us. The colonialists try to corrupt the hearts; when the heart is thus debilitated, reason, too, is not only lost and fails to function properly, but is itself turned into a terrible bondage. The colonialists and the exploitive powers are not afraid of establishing schools and universities: they even advocate popular education; but, on the other hand, they take good care to make arrangements to corrupt and destroy the spirit of students, and of the teachers as well. They are fully aware of the fact that an unhealthy mind and a sickly soul can not make any decisive move, and readily yield to every type of exploitation and degradation.

That is why the Qoran gives ample importance to the idea of exaltation, edification, and purity of the soul of society. In one of its verses, it says:

"...And help one another to piety and God-fearing; do not help each other to sin and enmity..." (5:2)

Men are, firstly, enjoined to pursue piety and are warned against sinning; secondly, they are asked to perform righteous deeds collectively, not individually.

Here I shall mention two or three sayings of the Prophet (S) and the Imams (AS) in order to elucidate this point. There is a tradition that once a person came in the presence of the Prophet (S) and told him that he wished to ask certain questions. The Prophet asked him whether he wanted to listen to the answers, or if he wished to ask questions first. He asked the Prophet (S) to give the answers. The Prophet (S) told him that his question was concerned with the meaning of virtue and goodness. The man affirmed that he intended to ask exactly the same question. The Prophet gently knocked the man's chest with his three fingers, saying: "Put this question to your own heart"; then he added:

"This heart is so made that it is hamonious with virtue; it is put at ease by virtue ad piety, but disturbed by vice and villainy. In the same way, just as presence of an alien disharmonious object in the human body causes uneasiness and discomfort, and disturbs its order, the human soul is thrown off its balance and ease on account of faulty behavior." What is commonly called the pain and torment of the conscience, is the same state of inconformity and alienation of the soul:

[For an honest insight] ask your own heart, though the masters may have their own (different) opinions.

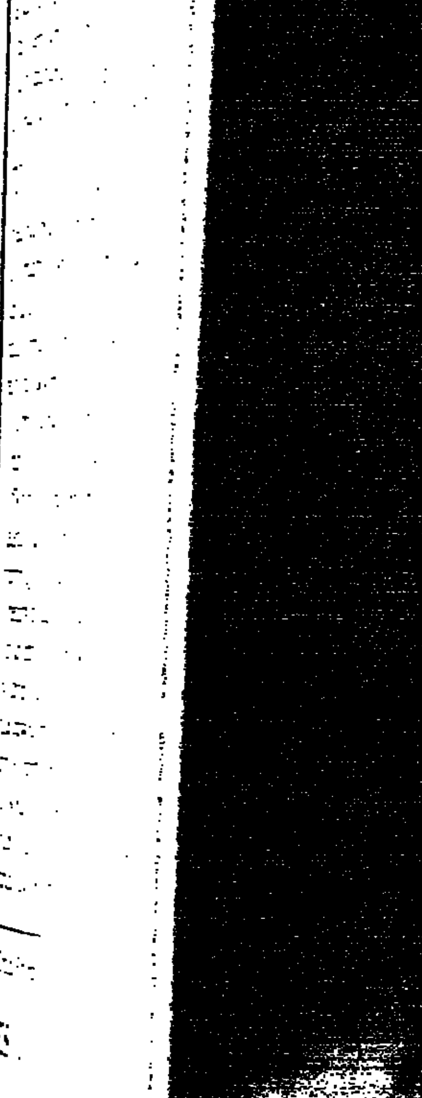
The Prophet (S) points out the fact that if a person endeavors to seek reality and truth with an open and impartial mind, his heart can never deceive him in this regard; it will always guide him towards the straight path. Basically, as long as man is in search of truth and reality, and treads the path of truth, whatever he encounters in this course is nothing but truth. This is, of course, a very delicate point which is often misunderstood. When someone falls into misguidance and loses his path, it is because he was following a certain direction which was not determined by sincere search of truth. Answering someone who had asked the Prophet, "What is virtue?,"he said, "If you really want to know what is virtue, then understand that when your heart is serene and your conscience at rest, whatever has caused them to be such, is virtue. But when you are attracted towards something, and that does not bring peace and serenity to your heart, then you should know that it is vice and sin."

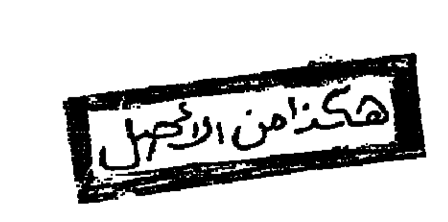
Elsewhere, when the Prophet (S) was asked about the meaning of faith (eemaan), he said, "When one performs an ugly deed, and is over-whelmed with the feeling of reproach and displeasure, and when one performs virtuous deeds and feels happy and joyous, it means that he is endowed with faith."

It has been quoted from Imam Ja'afar al-Sadiq (A.S.) that when a believer liberates himself from all worldly bondages, he feels the delight of nearness to God within his heart; in this state, the whole world appears to him very small and insignificant; he strives with all power to liberate himself from the bondages of the material world. This is a reality attested by the lives of the men of God. In the biographies of the Prophet (S), it is written that once after his morning prayers, the Prophet (S) went to visit the Ashab al-Suffah (platform dwellers). They were a group of poor men who did not possess any worldly belongings, and used to live by the side of Prophet's Mosque in al-Madinah. When the Prophet (S) happened to see one of them, Harith ibn Zayd, who looked rather pale and emaciated, his eyes sunk deep inside his skull, he inquired, "How are you." He answered, "I have woken up a man of certain faith." The Prophet asked him what proved his claim. He answered, "I am bereft of sleep at nights and engaged in fasting during the days." The Prophet told him that this was insufficient. "Tell me more about it, " he said. Harith said, "O Messenger of God, my condition is such that I can clearly see and hear the people of heaven and those of hell. If you permit me, I will inform you about the secret thoughts and inner states of every one of your companions." The Prophet bade him hold his tongue, and say no more, but asked him, "What is your desire?" He said, "To fight in the way of God."



According to the Qoran, furbishing of the human heart exalts a human being to such a point that, in the words of Ali (AS), even if the veils that conceal the Unseen be removed from in front of him, there is nothing that can enhance his faith. The teachings of the Qoran are meant to educate man to become a being equipped with the power of knowledge and reason on the one hand, and possessed of a pure heart and sound feeling on the other. They aim to train a human being who is able to employ his reason and heart in the most proper and exalted fashion. The Imams (AS) and their true pupils were examples of such human beings.





(Contd From Pg. 1)

MARTYR...

He added, "The text of the book was written by Ayatollah Seyed Mohammad Hossein Tabatabaee. The foreword and the notes were written by my father."

On compiling and publishing the works of his father, Motahhari said, "What I do is mainly concerned with compiling and publishing his manuscripts, revising the books already published by some individuals after the martyrdom of may father, which contain errors and mistakes, raising the printing quality of those books published while my father was still alive, working on the collection of his works and also starting to translate his books into modern languages."

Dr. Ali Motahhari pointed out that, since his father's martyrdom, he has been able to compile and publish some 30 books written by his father.

He concluded by telling a memory from his father, "When my father received a telephone call from Paris informing him of the imminent return of late Imam Khomeini to Iran, while he was still holding the receiver, his face showed both the expression of happiness and also the look of concern for Imam's safety under the martial law in Iran."

(Contd From Pg. 2)

HIS...

and Iran", "The Question of Hijab", and "Book-burning in Iran and Egypt".

The role of Ayatollah Motahhari is not limited to breaking the myth of the West. Rather, he played a major role in setting up the movement for the revival of man's Divine self and at the same time presenting Islam as a comprehensive and dynamic ideology.

Ayatollah Motahhari did not feel content with merely invalidating the foundations fo alien thoughts and cultures; he also presented a system of thought with solid and genuine philosophical foundations capable of confronting and defeating the opposing culture (S).

He had done this with full awareness. *He believed that the* movement for the revival of man's Divine self would only bear fruit if it had strong mental backing. Such a view had previously been expressed by Mohammad Abdul and Iqbal, who stressed that invalidating alien schools of thought was not enough, and that the ideology of Islam had to be presented in its most genuine form alongside it. In his book, "The Islamic Movements of the Past Century", Ayatollah Motahhari writes:

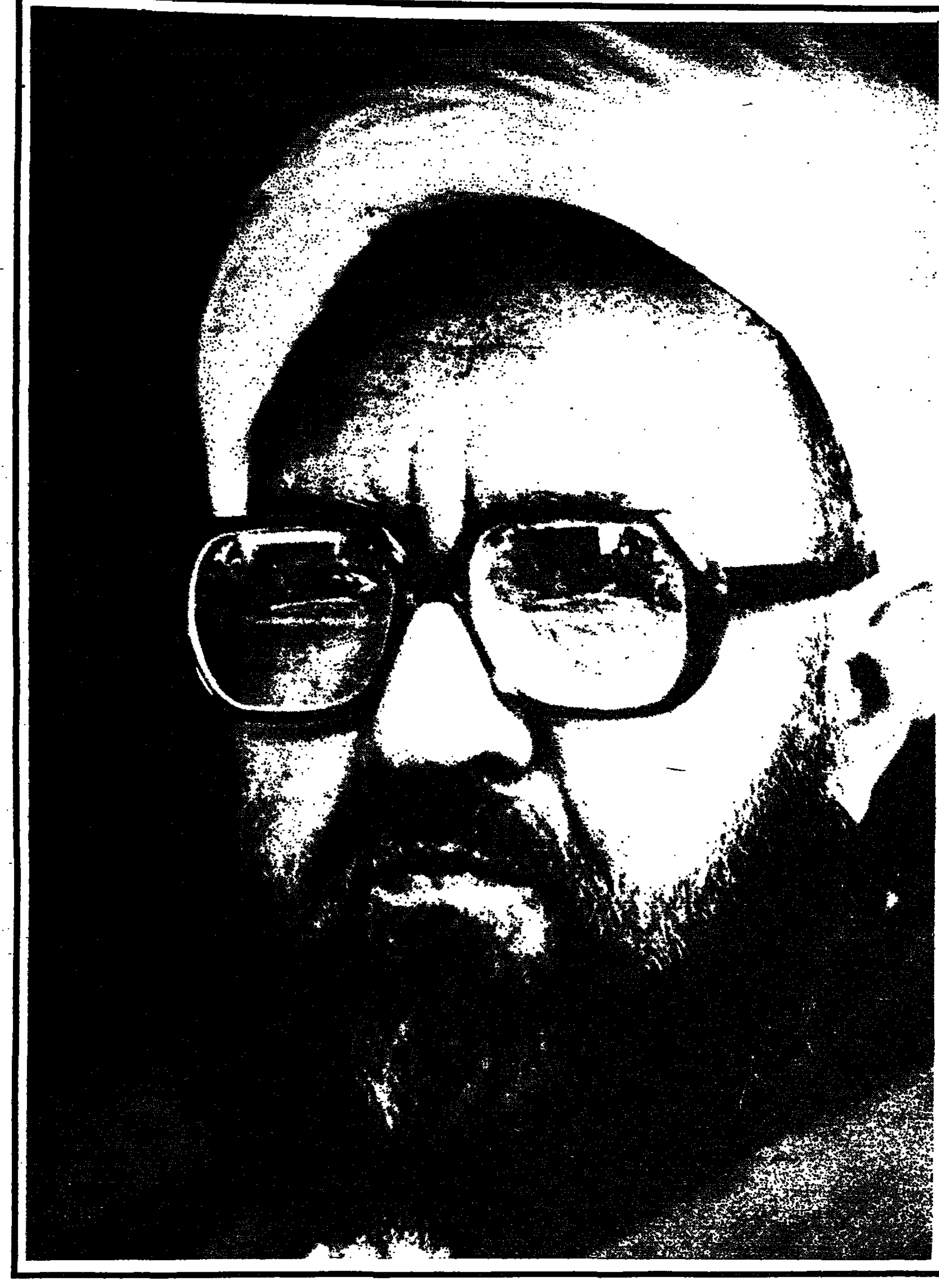
Every social movement has to be backed by an ideological movement ... We have to collect and compile our moral, political, historical, economic, religious and Divine philosophies which are inspired by the teachings of Islam, and then put the result at the disposal of the new generations."

Alongside Iqbal and Maulana Maudoodi in the Indian sub-continent, the thinkers of Ikhwan al-Muslimeen in the Arab world, and some Iranian thinkers such as Allamah Tabatabaee and Dr. Shariati, Ayatollah Motahhari presented Islam as a system with philosophical, social, political and economic dimensions. He also brought into discussion such questions as "cognition", "worldview", sociology, philosophy of history and the economic system in Islam.

At this point it is imposrtant to note that Ayatollah Motahhari, like most emporary Islamic movements, *would not reject the* Western culture and civilization outright: He would distinguish the right from the wrong and would only accept those aspects of Western culture and civilization which were thoroughly compatible with the teachings of islam. He would act like a "filter" which would analyze the thoughts coming from the West, differentiate between the good and the bad, and grant entry permission only to those which *were compatible with Islamic* thought and reject all that was alien to it.

What has been said so far, only covers a very limited part of Martyr Ayatollah Motahhari's works. It would be very difficult, perhaps impossible, for any one to do full justice to the services of a man who, in the words of the late Imam Khomeini, spent his entire life-time for the cause of Islam. For any individual, group, society *and even nation which whishes to* pay tribute to Ayatollah Motahhari, there is no better way than to study his works and thoughts with a view to fully implementing them in practice. No duobt the inspiring works of Ayatollah Motahhari were instrumental in the success of the Islamic Revolution and no doubt they will help it through the difficult years ahead. However, there are many other Islamic revolutions yet to be accomplished in other parts of the world: They will need Ayatollah Motahhari's illuminating thoghts just as much as the Islamic Revolution in Iran did.

Finally, it is in order to note that the World of Islam was deprived of the services of Ayatollah Motahhari less than three months after the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. *The enemies of Islam had* correctly identified Motahhari as a a pillar of the Islamic Revolution and assassinated him on 2 May 1979. The enemies of Islam are more vigilant and watchful than some of its friends. This is indeed a great tragedy of our time.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei:

"Martyr Motahhari's works form the intelectual basis of the Islamic system of iran."

The Late Imam Khomeini:

"Martyr Motahhari's blood acknowledges our Islamic Revolution"

(Contd From Pg. 5)

LEADARSHIP...

the above verses refer to a generation (and not a particular individual):

'Such are those from whom We will accept their noblest works and whose misdeeds We shall overlook. (We shall include them) among the people of Paradise: true is the Promise that has been given them.' (46:16).

These verses are followed by a depiction of a deviant generation:

'But (you find one) who says to his parents: "Fie on you! Do you threaten me with resurrection when entire generations have passed away before me? But they pray for Allah's help and say: "Woe to you! Have faith. The Promise of Allah is true." He replies: "This is but a tail of the ancients." He shall justly deserve the fate of the bygone nations of men and jinn: he shall assuredly be lost.' (46:17-18).

Here indeed is a generation deceived, a generation green behind the ears and lacking all maturity. A few empty words and they break off from all that is righteous. They break off from God; they scorn their parents and swear at them. They laugh at their parents' beliefs: '"Do you threaten me with resurrection" promising me your illusions? Do you warn me of a day of judgement, another world, anotherlife, when the previous generations have come and lived their lives and died and are no more?' The poor parents who are faithful and not prepared to hear anything said against their religion, are deeply grieved and distressed to hear their children speak this way. They say: '"Woe to you. Have faith. The Promise of Allah is true..."'

One of life's most heart-rending pains is that felt by religious parents whose own children they see desert the religion and become disbelievers. At such times their cries rise to the heavens: 'They pray for Allah's help...'

But as for their sons and daughters, all they can say is: '"...This is naught but the tales of the ancients."'

These verses depict two different generations, one rightous and the other deviant. It is in the light of these verses that we must examine the new generation of today.

... Son Who Was Part ... Imam Khomeini (RA)



On Tuesday midnight on the 6th of Jamadi-uth-Thani 1399 (May 2, 1979) was assassinated a man, the like of whom it would be very difficult to find, who one of the most illustrious and one of the most eloquent sons of Islam throughout the course of centuries: Ayatollah Mortuza Motahari, the one time professor of Islamic theology and philosophy at the University of Tehran. The motive of assassination was obvious as an attempt to weaken the newly born Islamic Republic and to terrorize its leaders. Again the forces of Imperialism and the remnants of the shattered regime of the past were actively and desperately struggling to subvert the revolution. The news of the assassination was widely reflected throughout the world media and press. The following thursday was declared a day of public mourning and a holiday by the late Imam Khomeini, the bereaved teacher of his beloved pupil. Millions of angry and grieved Iranians demonstrated throughout the country denouncing the evil deed and crying for avengement. Once again the Iranian nation got a chance to exhibit its unity and unbroken solidarity to the world. Numerous head of states, leaders and religious scholars cabled their condolences to the nation and Imam. The issue was not just the martyrdom of the head of the Revolutionary Council but the loss of a devoted scholar, a philosopher, a teacher and an eminent writer and speaker, whom the late Imam Khomeini, his teacher regarded as the harvest and the fruit of his own life of teaching and educative endeavour.

Deeply greived by the death of his illustrious pupil, the late Imam Khomeini said: "I have lost a dear son who was part of my own self. I bereave the loss of a man whom I considered the harvest of my life.

The martyrdom of this dear son and immortal man of learning created a gap in dear Islam which nothing can fill. I celebrate the possession of such self-sacrificing personalities who in their life and afterwards continue to radiate life and give guidance. I congratulate Islam, the educator of men and Muslims, for upbringing of such sons who by their brilliant radiance give life to the dead and illuminate the darkness. Though Islam has lost a beloved son who was a part of my body, I feel proud that such sons have and do exist in Islam. The like of Motahhari who was a symbol of taharat (purity) of soul and the power of faith and mastary of speech can be found with difficulty. He went and joined the Higher Ones; but the ill-wishers should know that by his departure his Islamic, scholarly and philosphical personality is not gone. Assassination cannot annihilate the personalities of Islam and men of Islam. They should know that by the will of God, the powerful, our nation will become evermore determined at such loss of its great men and became more determined in their struggle against corruption, oppression and colonialism. Our nation has found its way and will not stop until the rotten roots of the former evil regime are all pulled out completely and cut asunder. Islam grew and developed by the sacrifice of its dear ones. The programme of Islam, from the era of Revelation to the present day has been based on martydom. The struggle in the way of God and the way of the oppressed is on the top of its list of programme: "How is it with you, that you do not fight in the way of God, and for the men, women and children oppresed? (75; iv: Qoran).

Those who feel the sting of defeat and death, and wish to take revenge with their inhuman actions, or in their own flimsy thoughts want to terrorize those who fight in the way of Islam make a gross mis-judgement. From every hair and from every drop that falls to the ground from the body of the martyr, there rise men of determination and struggle".



Yet in another speech delivered at Madraseh Faiziyeh in Qom in front of a gathering of thousands of bereaved people, the late Imam Khomeini with tears in his eyes said: "one of the basic differences between Islam, the school of tawheed, and other heretic and atheistic schools is that men of this school consider martyrdom as a great victory of themselves. They welcome martyrdom for they are convinced of a world higher and more luminous than this world.

The believer is in bondage in this world and after martyrdom liberated from it. This is one of the differences between our school of tawheed and other schools. Our young men welcome martyrdom. Our devoted scholars lead the way to martyrdom. Those should be afraid of death who do not believe in God or the Day of Judgement; it is they who should be scared of martyrdom. We the followers of the school of tawheed are not afraid of martyrdom scared of it.

Let them come and test-as they have already tested out.

"Mohammad Reza, a corrupt man, willingly or unwillingly — this religion was confirmed through him. That is why that even as oppression and cruelty are increased, the religion of justice is confirmed to that extent. The tyrant by his cruel acts and deeds confirms the Faith of justice; and at all times it has been like this.

Pharaoh by his pharaonic devilry confirmed the Faith of Moses; Abusufyan by his rebellion against God confirmed the Faith of the Noble Messenger (May God's peace and Benedictions be upon him) and Mohammad Reza by his rebellion, sinfulness and cruelty confirmed the Religion of God. God is as much confirmed by holy and spiritual men as He is confirmed by corrupt men. They do not confirm the Faith of God — the Faith of God is confirmed through them.

"Now this corrupt man who shed the blood of one of our dear ones, confirmed the Religion of God. Our revolution was confirmed by the blood-shed of a dear ones. This revolution shou remain alive; This movement mu remain alive; and the perpetuatio of its life its through these martyr doms. Shed our blood; our lif shall become eternal; kill us, o nation will become more awa We are not afraid of death and yo too shall not benifit from it.

"It is a proof of your impote that you kill our thinkers in th dark of night; for you have n logic. If you had any logic, yo would have discussed and argue But you do not have any logi

Your logic is assassination. Isla condemns assassination because has logic. By the murder of o personalities — the personaliti of Islam — Islam is confirme

Our movement got new life in a parts of Iran. Again there was resurrection. If there had been an slackness or weakness, it wa renovated. Had it not been for thi great man's martyrdom — had h died in his bed — this movement would not have been confirmed.

This great wave would not have risen. This great wave rose in all lands among people throughout the Islamic world. "My brothers; do not be afraid of death. Death is life; That world is life. This world is death; we are not afraid to die.

They should be afraid of death who consider it to be destruction and who consider it to be annihilation and an end to existence."

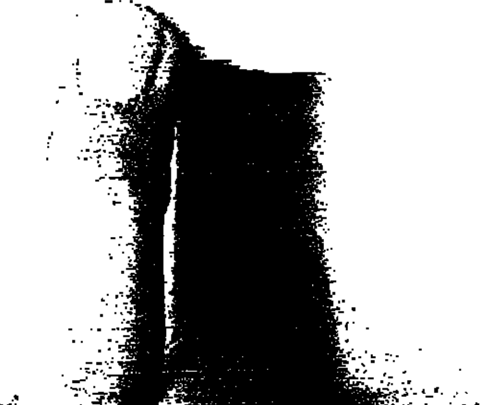
The great Iranian revolutionary leader as he gave the lesson of martyrdom to the people, shed tears over his favourite pupil's death.

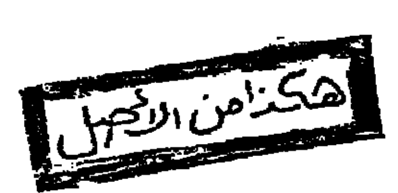
Ayatollah Mortuza Motahhari was one of the few Islamic thinkers and philosphers who had devoted all his time — days and nights — for the discovery of the realities of Islam and their eloquent exposition for the Muslim masses. A prodigious writer, he was also very prolific and wrote many remarkable books which are widely read; some of these are:

The Principles and Methods of the Philosophy of Realism, Man and his Destiny, The Mutual Services of Islam and Iran, The Sun of Faith Never Sinks, The Tales of the Righteous, Divine Justic, The Reasons of Inclination Towards Materialism, The Problem of Hijab (veil), The Rights of Women in Islam, A Journey Through Nahjul Balagha, and many other popular works.

On the midnight of 6th Jamadi-uth-thani 1399 the 60 year old philosopher was martyred by the assassin's bullet that hit his head.

But he had left behind a legacy of endeavour and struggle for the cause of Islam; what is much more important, he had lived to see the making of the Islamic Republic which was one of the greatest of dreams of his life. May God increase his station and grant him His mercy and give us the courage, devotion and faith that we might follow in his foot marks.



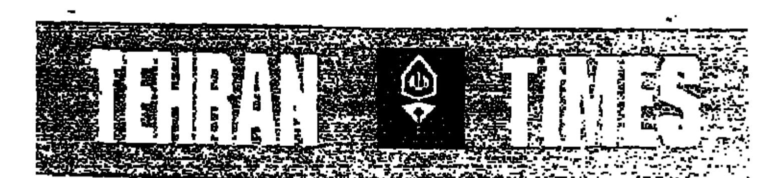


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May 1, 1997/Page



A Glance at International Events



Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. MAY 1, 1997; ORDIBEHESHT 11, 1376; ZIL-HAJJEH 23, 1417



A Glance at National Events

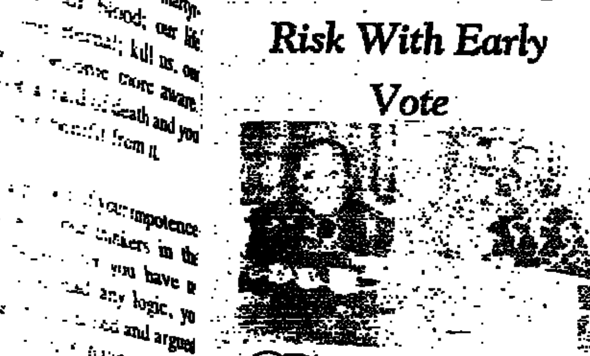
The World  This Week



WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, April 22

Chirac Takes Huge Risk With Early Vote



President Jacques Chirac has taken a gamble that may mark or break his presidency by calling a snap parliamentary election he says is needed to revitalize France for the introduction of a single European currency.

Iraq Violates 'No-Fly' Zone for Pilgrims

Iraq has flown helicopters to its border with Saudi Arabia to transport Muslim pilgrims, in violation of a western-imposed "no-fly" zone over the south, the official news agency INA said.

Indian Government Wins Confidence Vote

India's newly-elected United Front Coalition government won a vote of confidence.

Wednesday, April 23

Hostage Crisis Ends in Peru



President Alberto Fujimori, basking in international acclaim celebrated the dramatic end of the 18-week hostage standoff, saying it showed Peru would "never cave in" to terrorism.

China, Russia Sign Joint Statement on New World Order

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin signed a joint statement on their vision of a new world order.

Thursday, April 24

Dalai Lama Meets Clinton at White House

President Bill Clinton met with the Dalai Lama and told the exiled Tibetan leader he will urge China to open a direct dialog with him.

French Leaders Take Election Battle to the Streets

Political leaders prepared to take their election battle to the streets and people of France for what is expected to be a short but bruising campaign.

Friday, April 25

Fujimori Denies Commandos Intentionally Executed Rebels During Rescue



President Alberto Fujimori has denied that Peruvian commandos intentionally executed Tupac Amaru rebels who allegedly launched a military raid to free 72 hostages

General Assembly Demands Halt to Har Homa

The UN General Assembly demanded an immediate halt to construction of Jewish housing in a disputed area of Bait-ul-Moqaddas despite a U.S. appeal for the United Nations to keep out of the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Saturday, April 26

Hamas Asks Arafat to Relaunch Intifada

The Palestinian movement Hamas said it had asked President Yasser Arafat to relaunch the Intifada or uprising against Israel as the only option available to the Palestinians.

Pope in Prague Warns Against Western Hedonism

Pope John Paul holds a mass with young people to mark the 1,000th anniversary of a saint's death after starting a visit to the Czech Republic with a stern warning against hedonism imported from the West.

Sunday, April 27

Shooting Mars Yemen's First Elections Since 1994 Civil War



A soldier sprayed a polling station with gunfire in southern Yemen killing five election officials ahead of voting in the country's first elections since its 1994 civil war.

Yeltsin Says No to NATO Summit

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has no plans to attend next July's NATO summit which is due to offer membership to some former Soviet bloc states, Interfax news agency quoted his spokesman as saying.

Erbakan Government Wins Reprieve

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has won a reprieve for his government after promising to carry out the army programs.

Monday, April 28

Ruling Party Takes Lead in Vote for New Yemen Parliament



The Party of President Ali Abdullah Saleh took the lead in elections for Parliament in what was called a largely fair vote in the Arabian Peninsula's most democratic country.

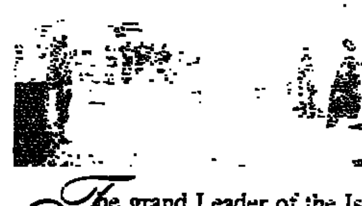
China Ratifies Chemical Weapons Convention

China ratifies the International Chemical Weapons Convention, leaving Russia as the only permanent member of the Security Council outside the treaty.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, April 22

Countries Holding Arrogant Attitude Toward Iran to Meet With Strong Response



The grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei arrived in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province in order to oversee the military maneuvers codenamed Tariq-ul Qods.

Wednesday, April 23

2nd Stage of Tariq-ul-Qods Maneuvers Launched



The second stage of the amphibious maneuvers codenamed 'Tariq-ul-Qods' was launched in the presence of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Thursday, April 24

President Rafsanjani Felicitates Gujral on His Election

Iran's President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani cabled his felicitations to Inder Kumar Gujral for his election as prime minister of India.

Int'l Conference of Archaeology Along Silk Road Opens

The International Conference of Archaeology Along the Silk Road opened in Tehran. Iran's Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Reza Golpaigani in his opening speech told the gathering that apart from important economic, political and cultural aspects of the Silk Road it had long been the most important factor in communication among the societies which existed along the road.

Friday, April 25

Islamic Government Based on Intimate Relations between Ruler and People



The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, dwelt on the importance of the Eid-ul-Ghadir event saying that the real context of the event is *Velayat* and that the issue points up the fact that in *Velayat* system there is close link between *"Valy"* (ruler) and the subjects.

Leader Pardons Prisoners on Eve of Eid-Ul-Ghadir

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, issued a clemency decree pardoning or reducing the imprisonment terms of 962 convicts sentenced by Islamic Revolution courts and military tribunals.

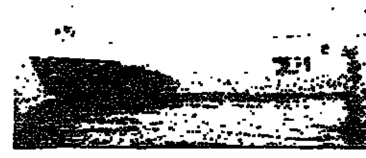
Saturday, April 26

President Opens 10th Int'l Book Fair



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurated the 10th Tehran International Book Fair (April 26-May 5).

"Iran Makin" Joins IRISL Fleet



The multipurpose Iran Makin ship joined the fleet of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) in Bandar Abbas.

Sunday, April 27

Expert-Level Meeting of ECO Opens in Tehran

The Expert-Level Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) opened ahead of the 7th meeting of the ECO's Council of Ministers to be held in Tehran on Tuesday

President Urges Workers to Be Present in Scene

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani described the workers as the most powerful supporters of the Islamic Revolution pledging that the government will not spare any effort to provide welfare for this committed class.

Monday, April 28

Iran Determined to Assist Reconstruction of Tajikistan



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received visiting Tajik Deputy Prime Minister, Khales Tairmurjan, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran would spare no effort for restoration of peace in Tajikistan and reconstruction.

Hajj, Manifestation of Divine Support for Islamic Republic



The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said that Hajj pilgrimage is the manifestation of the divine support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Rafsanjani Awarded Honorary Ph.D.



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was awarded the honorary doctorate in political sciences from Tehran University.

… to See How Weird You Are?

Part II

The first part appeared in our last weekend issue, April 24

Strangeness quotient: 1

[illegible]

The process of remembering is a complex mental function which includes recognition, registration, short-term retention, long-term retention and retrieval of 'stored' information. People with a 'photographic memory' can sometimes look at a picture for a few seconds and then reproduce it exactly. It's a gift that scientists don't understand.

Others may have an extremely good memory because they have taught themselves a special system for remembering (mnemonics) and it's thought that some autistic people may naturally have this.

Autists can also be especially gifted mathematically — like Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man.* Five-year-old Zearh Colburn of Vermont had amazing mathematical powers. Shortly before his sixth birthday, he was able to answer complex mathematical questions. When asked how many times a 12ft coach wheel would turn in 256 miles, he produced the correct answer — 112,640 — in two seconds. But by the time he was grown up his gift had disappeared.

Give yourself five points for possessing a photographic memory or being able to do mind-bending mental arithmetic instantaneously.

Strangeness quotient: 5

10. Can You Look Two Ways at Once?

Whereas prey animals like rabbits or fish have their eyes at the side of their heads to allow wide peripheral vision, 'hunting' animals like humans have single binocular vision that forces both eyes to focus on the same object. This works fine while the eyes move together, but if they cross — for instance, when you try to focus on something near the tip of your nose — the brain becomes confused by the conflicting data (which is why most people find this rather uncomfortable).

In order to work in sync, however, your eyes have to be controlled differently towards a common goal — a bit like differential transmission as a car turns a corner. This is called convergence.

Those who claim to be able to use their eyes independently are almost certainly stretching a point — it's just not possible. Which rather puts to shame Oscar Wilde's claim that not only could he move his eyes independently, but he could also read two books at once and memorize them. Then again, he was a notorious show-off.

If you *can* move your eyes in different directions at the same time, you're a genuine medical mystery — so give yourself four points...

Strangeness quotient: 4

11. Are You Symmetrical?

When we think of body symmetry we are immediately confined to external symmetry, the reason being that inside the human body there are individual organs in specific places: the heart is usually on the left and the liver on the right. Therefore there's no internal symmetry in the body. Externally, we can *only* be symmetrical along the sagittal plane, which vertically divides the body into (almost) mirror-image left and right halves.

Research at the University of New Mexico has shown that the closer you get to being symmetrical in this plane the more attractive you are, the earlier you start your sex life and the more orgasms you have compared to less symmetrical people.

But symmetry is only one aspect of the perfect body. Proportion is of equal importance and like most things it resolves to numbers. One ratio in particular — 1:618, or the 'Golden Ratio'. This has been handed down to us by the Ancient Greeks, who widely regarded it as the bedrock of their principles of aesthetics, appearing time and time again in their architecture. According to the Golden Ratio the ideal distance from the feet to the navel is 1.618 times the distance from the navel to the top of the head, and the ideal mouth is 1.618 times the width of the nose. Presumably, happy people are 1.618 times more optimistic than unhappy people.

Facial symmetry is very attractive — people assess potential partners by subconsciously making judgments about ear height, eye color, tooth arrangement. If you were to take a photograph of yourself and separate it into a left and right half, then make up two full separate facial mirror images with those two halves you would end up with two completely different portraits of the 'same' you. Spooky.

Is there such a thing as the perfect looking person? Well the short answer is yes: Audrey Hepburn. Californian cosmetic surgeon Steve Marquardt has developed a face 'map' based on interlocking pentagons and the Golden Ratio. The resulting mask or set of lines making up a face has specific distances between all the features and the general outline shape. According to Marquardt the better your face fits the mask the more beautiful you are, and the only person he's found who fits exactly is Audrey Hepburn. But let's face it, you don't really need a set of interlocking pentagons to work that one out for yourself...

Strangeness quotient: 4

12. Do You Have Prehensile Feet?

We've all heard remarkable tales of people who can do amazing feats with their feet: people who can draw, pick up objects and even play snooker. But the question is, will we ever be able to do with our feet what we can do with our hands?

Almost certainly not. Feet and hands in humans parted company on the evolutionary road when we first started to learn to walk upright on our hind legs. At this point the feet over the specialist task of bearing the whole of the body's weight, so freeing up the hands to exploit their opposable thumbs in more complex tasks, such as gathering fruit and manipulating tools.

The fact that some of us are better at using our feet for 'hand' tasks has puzzled scientists for years. The most likely explanation is that these people are simply demonstrating a higher level of vestigial tree-dwelling instincts which are now redundant.

It is possible to make toes work like fingers but this only occurs in the world of specialist surgery. An operation to replace missing fingers with toes is becoming increasingly common, and advances in transplant techniques and technology mean that 95 percent of toe-to-hand transplants are now successful to the point of the newly attached replacement digit being capable of gripping after a year. The drawback for the patient, of course, is having to learn to live with a missing toe — but in a recent survey every patient said that sacrificing a toe to replace a finger was worth it.

Be totally honest: Can you draw something recognizable holding a pen with your feet? If so, you can collect five big ones...

Strangeness quotient: 5

13. Can You Do the Vulcan 'V' Sign?

Leonard Nimoy always made it look so easy, as he parted his hand to greet assorted alien dignitaries every week on *Star Trek.* It's not quite as alien as it seems — Nimoy actually took Spock's trademark greeting from a Jewish salute — but it's nevertheless difficult for some, admiring Trekkers to imitate.

A call for more information of the subject on the uk.media.tv.sf.startrek newsgroup brought forth a torrent of replies from online Trekkers, most of whom can do it with one hand or the other but not both. One responded: "I once got a class of about 20 to try it — all adults — and around a quarter were totally unable, a quarter could if they positioned their fingers with the other hand first, and the other half could. Only a very small minority could do it with both hands."

Quite why it should be so difficult is a bit of a mystery, but it seems likely that there has simply been no point in our evolution when we've needed to move our fingers in such a weird combination — we're just not built to do it.

Strangeness quotient: 2

14. Do You Remember Being a Baby?

Anyone who tells you they can remember their life as an infant is either deceiving themselves (and you), or is in possession of a freakish memory that would baffle even the experts.

"Any clear recollections of events before the age of three-and-a-half is very rare indeed," says Dr. Alan Parkin of Sussex University. "There seems to be some sort of memory cut-off at this age, though nobody really knows why. Possibly before this age the brain lays down memory in a different way. In later years this memory can't be accessed, just as if you'd changed the code on a computer." Not much room for argument here.

Studies carried out include interviewing adults about early memories which are later independently verified by their parents. Another test consists of showing a series of photographs to children of the age of two or three. Two years later the same photographs are shown to the same children in order to assess the level of recollection.

"The occasional earlier memory does get retained, but these are just of very charged events," says Dr. Parkin. "One example would be a very painful operative procedure.

"But these memories exist in isolation from everything else, and even then are almost unknown before the age of two."

Don't be tempted to give yourself any points for this category under any circumstances: we *know* you're deceiving yourself — even if you don't.

Strangeness quotient: 3

So, Are You an X-File? Find out how you scored

0-13 points Not very weird, are you? Most self-respecting blokes can manage at least a few of the more juvenile 'skills' listed above, but you're not even up to this. You'll need to practice a fair bit if you want Gillian Anderson to come knocking at your door

14-28 points Not a bad effort. You're weird enough to be the kind of person everyone wants at their party, but not so strange/sick/peculiar that freak show proprietors are clamoring for your services. But with a bit of extra practice...

Over 31 points You're a real oddity — either a genuine superman or a throwback to a more ancient, less evolved form of *homo sapiens.* Grow your hair long and grunt a bit, and you stand a fair chance of getting a walk-on part in the *Jurassic Park* sequel

Entertaining in Style

Chicken and Sweetcorn

You will need...	4 chicken joints
	3 oz. butter
	1 bunch spring onions, trimmed
	1 can new potatoes, drained
	1 can sweetcorn
Preparation time	1 oz. flour
15 minutes	½ pint milk
	salt and pepper
Cooking time	few lemon wedges
20 minutes	few parsley sprigs

Rub the chicken with 2 oz. butter. Grill or fry until golden brown all over for 15-20 minutes

Make the sauce. Saute the onions and potatoes in remaining 1 oz. butter, and the sweetcorn and mix well. Add the flour. Mix and cook for 2-3 minutes. Remove from the heat and gradually add the milk. Bring to the boil, stirring all the time until thickened. Cook for 5 minutes longer. Season well.

Pour the mixture into a shallow dish. Arrange the joints on top of the sauce. Garnish with parsley and lemon wedges.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP

The sauce can quite safely be made up to two days in advance and kept well-covered in the refrigerator until you are ready to use it.



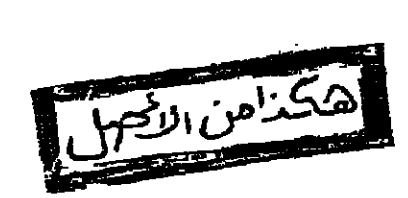
SIZING IT UP

C	O	A	I	M	W	G	H	Y	H	T	G	N	E	L
O	A	I	N	I	M	W	I	G	I	A	N	T	A	U
L	I	E	Y	N	E	E	T	B	N	M	R	R	I	A
O	E	A	V	U	Y	I	D	U	F	T	G	S	D	L
S	I	E	V	T	I	N	L	O	I	E	R	U	W	L
S	I	V	G	E	E	X	I	Y	N	N	B	O	E	A
A	I	I	E	S	V	W	T	T	I	O	E	W	H	M
L	B	S	D	C	I	Q	T	U	T	R	M	I	L	S
I	E	N	S	T	T	I	L	W	E	M	I	E	E	T
M	O	E	I	E	U	W	E	A	A	O	J	E	K	C
I	A	T	W	K	N	I	E	G	V	U	W	Y	S	A
O	E	X	C	M	I	N	O	R	U	S	J	K	W	P
I	E	E	I	J	M	S	T	I	E	H	G	L	W	M
O	P	W	E	V	I	S	S	A	M	W	R	U	I	O
S	D	R	I	K	D	N	A	R	G	W	R	B	I	C

BIG
BULKY
COLOSSAL
COMPACT
DIMINUTIVE
ENORMOUS
EXTENSIVE
GIANT
GRAND
HUGE
INFINITE
LARGE
LENGTHY
LITTLE
MASSIVE
MAXI
MINI
MINOR
MINUTE
SHORT
SLIM
SMALL
SPECK
TEENY
TINY
WEE

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle

THE SPACE RACE



Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Danger in 'Paradise'

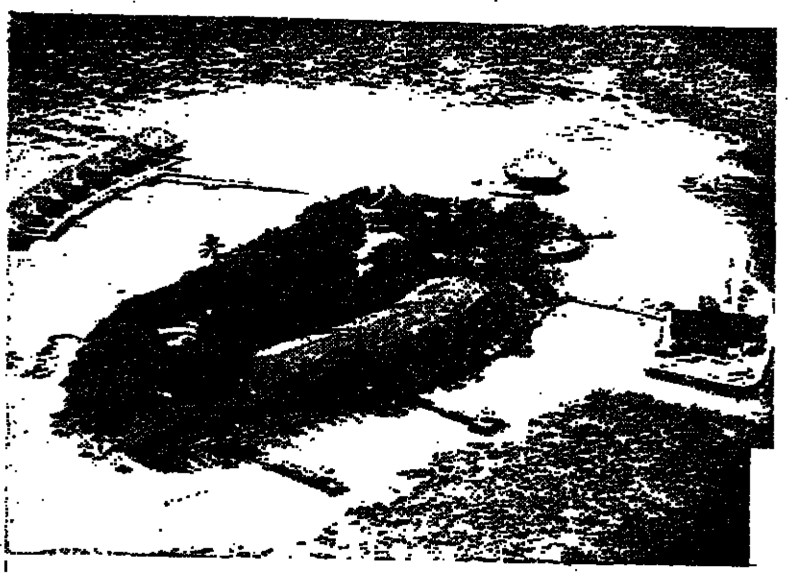
Christopher Columbus said he had "never beheld so fair a thing" as the small West Indian islands. He wrote in his journal of the "trees beautiful and green, with flowers and fruits each according to their kind, many birds and little birds that sing very sweetly."

But many of the world's environment and development crises are at their most acute in these islands. They are, for example, especially afflicted by biodiversity holocaust. Three-quarters of the species of mammals and birds that have been driven to extinction were island dwellers. In some islands, more than 90 percent of the endemic plants are now rare, threatened, or extinct, and Oceania has the world's highest proportion of endangered species, whether measured by inhabitant or by land area.

Some islands, like Nauru and Ocean Island in the Pacific, have been devastated for short-term gain. Mr. Kinza Clodumar, Nauru's minister of finance, told the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio how almost the entire surface of the island had been stripped bare to a depth of 13 meters to extract phosphate, which will soon run out, leaving only "a jagged, uninhabitable desert of coral tombstones."

Others, like the Maldive archipelago, lying in the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, is faced with extinction by the effect of global warming. Most of the 180,000 people of the Maldives live less than 2 meters above the waves, and on the basis of what is known about the accumulation of greenhouse gases, there is a consensus among scientists that a rise in sea level could submerge its thousand islands in a 21st century version of the Bibilical deluge.

Some 300 Pacific atolls—including such countries as Tubalu and Kiribati—are also expected to become uninhabitable and disappear. What is endangered is not merely many hundreds of beautiful islands, but the survival of entire nations, with their distinctive languages and cultures. Their fate may become a symbol of man's failure to preserve Earth as a habitable place for all.


Barbados in the Caribbean.

"No man is an island, entire of itself" wrote the poet, John Donne, four centuries ago. The people of the Maldives and the Pacific are discovering that no island is an island either, for they are endangered by human action elsewhere on the planet. Their roads, for example, carry few of the 400 million cars whose exhaust fumes are one of the driving forces behind global warming; it is the casual decisions of motorists thousands of miles away that are determining their very existence.

= Paradise on earth?

The Caribbean is still seen as a 'paradise' on Earth, sometimes even by the people of the area themselves in their wistful moments. Its condition, however, is fraught with danger. Climate change and sea level rise threaten its coasts and the economies of its countries. Ozone depletion could transform exposure to sand and sea from a prime tourist attraction to something that tourists turn from in fear. Global warming threatens to bring fiercer hurricanes and storm surges. Dying coral reefs deplete the ecological capital of the coastal waters. Solid wastes, both of its own residents as they absorb the consumption culture of the industrialized world—and industrial country wastes dumped in its waters by cruise ships endanger the Caribbean heritage of sea.


The Bahamas

The pollution of poverty is perhaps the most threatening of all. Sir Shridath Ramphal, an authority on Earth's sustainable development, says: "We cannot save the freshness of the air, or the purity of the water, or the goodness of the Earth; we cannot save the forests or the elephants or the whales, unless we save the people. Simply to tell those at the margin of existence not to cut down the forest or not to have many children, when they see both as necessary to their sourvival, is not only insensitve to their predicament, but downright provocative. We can only ask endangered people to help rescue the planet if we link the Earth's salvation to their own."

The Earth Summit in Rio gave priority to the war against povery. But, as it also emphasized, economic growth must be of a kind compatible with ecological health. "That is why the Brundtland Commission, on which I seved, developed the concept of sustainable development—meeting present needs in ways that do not diminish the ability of future generations to meet theirs," says Sir Ramphal.

= Needs and Limits

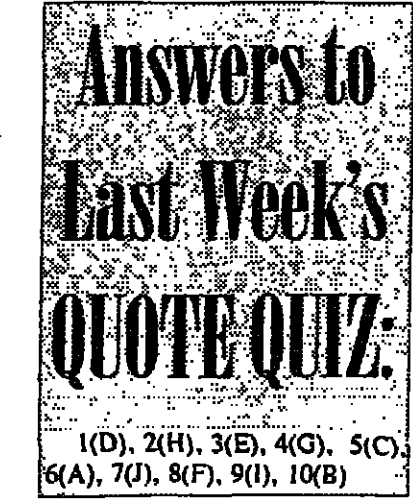
Sustainable development carries two crucial components. Firstly, it must satisfy needs—in particular the needs of the world's poor. And secondly, it—especially the world's rich—must not breach environmental limits, and endanger the capacity of the natural world to sustain life today and tomorrow. As the Brundtland report made clear, rich and poor countries must each in their own ways make a living credo of these principles.

The partnership of course is not between equals. Developed and developing countries are unequal in responsiblity for getting it wrong and in capacity for getting it right. As between unequals, as Aristotle explained a long time ago, equity requires not "reciprocity" but "proportionality."

There have been encouraging signs that island countreis are getting the message. The West Indian Commission, in its report *Time for Action*, said that there was "no greater danger as we look to the 21st century than the implications of the crisis of environment and development" and added: "Our capacities, the absence of resilience in our economies, the overall vulnerability of our condition, all make it imperative that we come together in the face of these threats." The commission called for the Caribbean Sea to be declared a zone of environmental protection.

Thirty-six small island states have already joined forces in AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island States), realizing that they would only attract the attention of the world to their special needs if they acted together. AOSIS rapidly became an important player at the UN, playing a key part in achieving the Convention on Climate Change, the first ever agreement to control the emission of greenhouse gases.

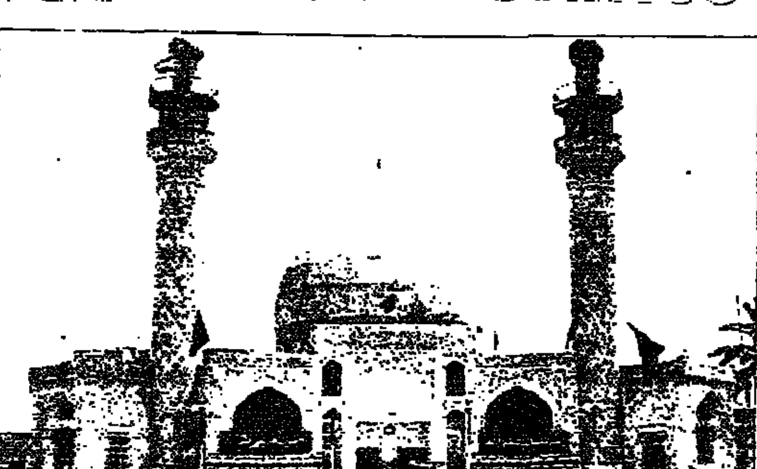
The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing states, which opened in Barbados on 24 April 1994 focused the world's attention on the islands as never before. It is the most important meeting of its kind since the Earth Summit, an extraordinary opportunity to apply the recommendations agreed at Rio to some of the most critical countries on the planet and, in doing so, provide hope for the future of the island Earth itself. (Courtesy of *Our Planet*, Vol 6, No. 1, 1994.)


Answers to Last Week's QUOTE QUIZ.

1(D), 2(H), 3(E), 4(G), 5(C), 6(A), 7(J), 8(F), 9(I), 10(B)

Travelogue

Ahwaz at a Glance


Ali Ibn Mehziar Tomb

THE CITY'S OLD NAME was Hormuz Ardeshir. It enjoyed great importance and glory under King Ardeshir of the Sassanid Dynasty who built a huge dam across the River Karoun. Under the Qajars it was called Naseriyeh and since 1953 Ahwaz.

The railway and suspension bridges of the historical city of Ahwaz are among the ultimate in architecture, its drinking water supplied by the River Kkaroun and its nearby springs and wells.

In addition to many historical sites, the city is a highly developed industrial center with many industrial plants such as the Ahwaz Rolliing MIll, Pipe Plant and Steel Mill.

*** Physical Features of Ahwaz**

Ahwaz is the capital of the oil-rich southern province of Khuzestan with a 10.556 sq km area. It is 18 meters above sea level with a latitude of 31.9 degrees north and a longitude of 48.41 degrees east. The city is 881 kms southwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

On the north and east its neighbors are Dezful, Shoushtar and Ramhormuz, on the west Dasht-e Azadegan and on the south the port city of Khorramshahr.

In the census of 1991 Ahwaz had a population of 723,653 with the city stretching out on both sides of the River Karoun. A major portion of the city is plain, with heights only found in the northern sector.

Like other cities of Khuzestan Province, it has a hot climate, reaching to as high as 50 degrees C in summer. Its temperature is above 40 degrees C five months of the year.

*** Etymology**

Ahwaz is the plural form of the Arabic word "houz," or "khouz," name of a tribe which first inhabited the area. Iranians have referred to it as Souzian, part of a state whose old name was Ilam, the present day Khuzestan.

The city's old name, Hormuz Ardeshir, was in honor of King Ardeshir of the Sassanids (224-241), upon whose order a huge dam was built across the River Karoun and who replaced Shoush as the capital of Souziana or Khuzestan..

The city with its vast sugarcane plantations enjoyed special importance under the Umayyads (661-750) and Abbasids (750-1258).

Under the Qajars and during the reign of Nasereddin Shah the city's name was changed to Naseri or Naseriyeh. Its present name was approved by the government in 1953.

*** History of Ahwaz**

Although exact information on the history of Ahwaz is not available, evidence indicates that it was constructed under the Elamites (2,700 B.C.), who built a city where the present day Ahwaz is situated and called it Oxin. The devastated city was reconstructed by the Parthians (247 B.C.-224 A.D.) and was rebuilt under the Sassanids (224-651 A.D.). The city has since then been reuilt over and over again.

From 1927 onward Ahwaz gradually progressed, partly due to the attention Europeans gave to southern Iran. Merchants found the city an ideal business center and Nasereddin Shah of Qajar (1848-1896) gave instructions for navigation on the River Karoun.

*** Historical Monuments**

The city is rich in historical monuments and recreation centers, among them the Ali Ibn Mehziar Tomb, Abbas Shrine, Choghaz Nabil, Suspension Bridge and seven breathtakingly beautiful parks.

Ali Ibn Mehziar Tomb, built 11 centuries ago, is a place worth seeing. Ali Ibn Mehziar was one of the most distinguished Shiite Muslim theologians and a scientist who wrote many books referred to by many scholars.

*** Industries**

As one of the industrial centers of the country, the Ahwaz Rolling Mill has an annual output of 600,000 tons of different sizes and kinds of pipes.

Another giant plant built in 1974 is the Ahwaz Steel Mill. The plant has three units—the first with an annual output of 330,000 tons, the second 1.200 million tons and the third 3 million tons of sponge iron. (Courtesy of *IranAir* inflight magazine, No. 11, 1994.)

Brain Teaser

WHAT'S WHERE?

Listed numerically below are some well-known cities of the world, while listed alphabetically are the countries in which they are situated. Can you pair each city with its correct country?

A. Denmark	1. York
B. Colombia	2. Salvador de Bahia
C. Nepal	3. Fez
D. Hungary	4. Caracas
E. Pakistan	5. Warsaw
F. Tunisia	6. Budapest
G. Australia	7. Kathmandu
H. Egypt	8. Islamabad
. Brazil	9. Melbourne
J. UK	10. St. George's
K. Grenada	11. Des Moines
L. El Salvador	12. Copenhagen
M. Indonesia	13. Cairo
N. Maghreb	14. Jakarta
O. Guyana	15. Tunis
P. USA	16. San Salvador
Q. Sierra Leone	17. Medellin
R. Poland	18. Ho Chi Minh City
S. Vietnam	19. Freetown
T. Venezuela	20. Georgetown

(Answers will appear next week.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1987 — Pope John Paul II beatifies Jewish-born nun killed at Auschwitz Nazi death camp.

1988 — Police clash with demonstrators throughout Poland as thousands heed labor group solidarity's call for "national day of protest."

1989 — Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia changes country's name and flag.

1990 — Soviet protesters heckle President Mikhail Gorbachev at May Day Parade on Red Square.

1991 — Iraq tells international regulators that [illegible] of its [illegible] nuclear facilities were destroyed by allied bombing, while three were damaged and three went unharmed.

1992 — President Bush orders 1,000 federal riot police to L.A. and puts 4,000 army troops on standby.

1993 — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa is killed by suicide bomber in Colombo.

CANDID CAMERA



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1963 — Chinese seamen rescued from freighter that sank in Yellow Sea claim their ship was torpedoed by unidentified submarine.

1967 — British Prime Minister Harold Wilson's labor government decides to seek membership in European Common Market.

1986 — Sikh extremists kill seven people outside holy town of Amritsar, India.

1988 — Children's hospital collapses in India's northern state of Kashmir, killing at least 14 people.

1989 — Communist Hungary begins cutting through the barbed wire and electrically-charged fencing that divides it from the west.

1990 — African National Congress and South African government open three days of negotiations in Cape Town on gradually ending white rule in South Africa.

1993 — Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signs UN peace agreement on Bosnia.

Lessons at the Halfway Point

I am 40 years old; at the halfway point. When my mind first fixed on this, I felt a sense of panic. After a few weeks I settled down, making peace with the fact that we are, in the words of poet Carl Sandburg, "riding on a limited express."

And then, by serendipity, I read an old Scout manual about what to do when you're lost: Stop. Investigate. Go over everything you know. Continue forward if you're at all certain of your route. If you move, leave a note.

This is my note. The day I finished writing these lessons, I walked outside. It was 108 degree Farenhite with rain-forest humidity. Passing my 83-year-old neighbor leaning on his cane, I shouted, "Howyadoing?"

His reply? "Best day yet!"

I decided to stand straighter. Posture, like attitude, is important.

And so here are my lessons at the halfway mark, which I hope will comfort the afflicted while afflicting the comfortable.

Nothing is as stressful as trying to be a different person from whom you are.

When you stop spending time with real friends, you lose your balance.

Amazingly, people think the things that happen to them happen only to them.

The lies we tell ourselves are more pernicious than the lies we tell others: "I'm nothing like my mother" ... "I'm too busy to exercise" ... "I don't need therapy" ... "I don't want to get married."

Those who are tentative about making plans are often unsure of their ability to show up.

If you don't personally get to know people from other racial, religious or cultural groups, it's very easy to belive ugly things about them and make them frightening in your mind.

The majority of overweight people I know skip breakfast, and the majority of thin people don't.

Some men spend more time maintaining their lawns than they do their relationships.

The most absolute dictator's power is not as great as a typical parent's power over a child.

I still place emphasis on appearance, even though I've run across a few well-dressed idiots.

When you make a mistake, write down what you've learned before a week passes. The process of writing it and reading it can help you avoid repeating it.

Three things that all children must know: who's the boss, what the rules are, and who is going to enforce them.

Some days for no perceptible reason I feel scared, lonely and hopeless. After a good night's sleep or a talk with someone who holds my hand and tells me to keep going, I'm usually just fine.

I believe that people who work 12 hours a day should go home with bigger loaves of bread than people who work eight.

Some ideas are so stupid that only intellectuals could believe them.

Decide early in any situation exactly what your bottom line is, then stick to it.

Far more often than poverty breeds crime, crime breeds poverty.

It's better to be 0-for-20 than 0-for-0.

The older I get, the more heartfelt my prayers become.

IF I DONT DEFEND YOUR HONOR PEOPLE WILL ASSUME YOU HAVE NONE.

PEOPLE WHO DON'T WORK ARE OFTEN MORE EXHAUSTED THAN PEOPLE WHO DO.

IT IS VITAL TO GIVE YOURSELF CREDIT FOR THE AGONY YOU HAVE SURVIVED THROUGHOUT LIFE.

AS YOU LOOK AT HISTORY, IT'S APPARENT THAT HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS MUSH EASIER TO PREDICT THAN THE WEATHER.

(From the book Michael Levine)



GRAFFITI

BEHIND EVERY ARGUMENT IS SOMEONE'S IGNORANCE

ANIMAL CRACKERS





PRIMARIES



The bold yellows and reds of the flowers offset the deep blue glass of this attractive 1930s bowl. Crushed wire mesh is the best medium for this type of shallow bowl as it keeps the flowers f- sagging.





Fill mesh with variegated *Pittosporum*, a bushy foliage which maintains its fullness even when cut short. Stems of gypsophilia (also known as baby's breath in the United States) are added next, spread across the arrangement.

The three main stems of yellow lily, straddling the length of the vase, form the focal point. Intersperse the whole display with holly (known more specifically as English holly in the United States) berries, retaining the longer twigs for contrast and balance.

